

**DATELINE NAGANO:  
PRIDE, PAIN AND POT**



CANADA'S

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

# Macleans

FEBRUARY 23, 1998



## **SPEED** *Queen*

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LeMay Doan, Canada's  
stars on ice skate to glory  
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# From The Editor

## Avoiding the U-word

Ones that Planner Mander Paul Martin is unlikely to linger over in his budget next week is unemployment. In 1996, Martin raised eyebrows when he discontinued the traditional practice of including projections of the unemployment rate in his budget documents. Since the numbers would only have served to remind people of the government's sorry record, Martin's decision was bound to be good politics on budget night, the unemployed are likely to get much more than a passing mention. The attitude seems to be, what's a million?

To be sure, Martin still paid to his improving job creation record. Following strong growth of 369,000 jobs in the previous 10 months, employment remained steady in January. At the same time, the unemployment rate rose only fractionally in January to 8.9 per cent, still below the crushing levels during most of the past seven years. But the national percentage clouds the chronic double-digit rates in the four Atlantic provinces (from 11.2 in Nova Scotia to 17.6 in Newfoundland) and in Quebec (11.3 per cent). The other troubling number for January was 16.5—the percentage of people between the ages of 25 and 24 who are out of work. In all, 7.4 million Canadians were officially recorded as unemployed in January, roughly equivalent to the combined populations of Calgary and Hamilton.

In addition to those without work, there is the growing phenomenon of thousands who have jobs—but who are underemployed or shifting from one part-time job to another. Some useful light was shed on the issue recently in a study by one of the gems of Canadian public policy, Statistics Canada. In its monthly Canadian



Economic Observer for January, the federal agency, reporting on a survey done in 1995, revealed that 1.3 million jobs, or 12 per cent of the total, were "non-permanent"—that is, seasonal, temporary or casual—and paid almost \$3 less per hour on average than full-time jobs. Fully 925,000 people in part-time jobs lived in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. The highest relative concentrations were in Atlantic Canada, where 28 per cent of the jobs were not permanent.

Not surprisingly, there was better work in the cities than in rural areas. Vancouver had the lowest rate of part-time work in the country (seven per cent), while rural Newfoundland was the highest (20 per cent). And the West did better overall than Quebec and the East.

StatsCan did not draw any national conclusions about underemployment. And, as the Maclean's year-end poll indicated, plenty of people in society opt for part-time work. Fully 58 per cent of respondents who did not have full-time paid work in November said the reason was they did not want a regular job.

Still, the people of budget night cannot obscure the harsh fact that too many Canadians have entered the new year either looking for or, if they have no better lot, come budget day Paul Martin will at least spare them a sentence or two.

Robert Lewis



Martin is a sorry record on jobs

## Newsroom Notes:

### Staying up late

Executive Editor Bob Levin reviews and edits about 35,000 words of Maclean's most writers. Last Friday night, with the regular issue "closed," Levin went home to prepare for an 8 a.m. shift—"Sageer Saturday" of the Winter Games in Nagano, which lasted into the wee hours of Sunday in Toronto. Meanwhile, in Japan, Maclean's staffers also did a double day, staying up late after covering the day's events to file for



Wallace with Schmeidler double day

this week's cover package (page 30). Bruce Wallace, a veteran of two previous Olympics and now Ottawa Editor, wrote the main story and interviewed skip Sandra Schmeidler for her piece on Canada's two curling teams. Sports Editor James Deacon reported on Canada's smashing gold-silver finish in women's speed skating—first he and Photo Editor Peter Bragg covered Elise Lajthaj's courageous silver-medal performance.

This week's issue introduces two new regular features—a column on Education by Assistant Managing Editor Ann Dowsett Johnston, who is in charge of the popular university ranking issue (page 66), and Senior Writer Joe Chedley's unique take on television (page 69).



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U.S. F-14 Tomcat in the Gulf: military arrogance

## History lessons

The United States' strategy of air strikes on Iraq is an example of a very familiar "Clintonian" cockroach: World War II. Bombing and the use of long-range missiles will only kill innocent people, and will not get rid of Saddam Hussein and his evil dictatorship. If the Americans and the British want Saddam out, they should invade Iraq. Former U.S. president George Bush should have completed the Gulf War of 1991, capturing Iraq and executing Saddam as a war criminal. But he didn't, because he was afraid of American casualties, the Vietnam syndrome. In the Second World War, there was also an overreliance on air power. The effect of mass bombing was to prolong the war and allow the Soviets to conquer Eastern Europe. The Americans and the British, in their military arrogance, never learn.

Peter Steinberg,  
New Brunswick

Prior to Dec. 31, 1978, my wife and I spent two years living and working in Iraq. Iraqis were very close about their dislike for the American administration and its policy.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**  
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## 'Corporate citizens'

Increasing alarm and a degree of sadness compel me to write this letter. In your Feb. 9 issue, two articles, "Pipeline partnership" (illustrated) and "Rethinking capitalism" by Deirdre McMurtry (The Bottom Line), are related in content. The latter story outlines the recent trends of corporate consolidation in general, while the former deals specifically with the merger of Nova Corp. and TransCanada Pipelines Ltd. I heartily agree with many of the statements included in McMurtry's column as she tells of financier George Soros musing that "excessive glorification of the ability to make big money is creating a society in which material success is all that counts." How true and how frightening. As the perils involved in the pipeline merger and out the well-worn phrases, such as "this is good for Canada" and "one player is the big leagues," another few thousand workers are faced with dismissal. I always thought that to be a good citizen one must show concern for one's neighbours and care for our common interests, such as the places where we live and raise our families. Shouldn't our corporate citizens show the same care? While I oppose government intervention in the affairs of business and appeal to the conscience of the corporate community to act as better stewards of their human resources and agricultural resources, it is with sadness that I say they don't care. Do we indeed need to "rethink capitalism"?

Graff Alton,  
Aylmer, Ont.

condemned francophone extremists ("Gambing with Canada's future," The Round Table, Feb. 16). He fails to realize that for every person like him, who believes that English Canada is the only Canada, there are many, many more who dream of a prosperous, united and independent Canada.

Joel Parr,  
Cambridge, England

While I heartily agree with Deaneau's arguments, there is a question in my mind whether things could ever go back to what they were before the francophones took control of the federal government. Perhaps the best solution for Canada's problems would be for Quebec to separate and let the rest of the country go on to greater prosperity with English as the only official language.

George Fisher,  
Riverside, Ont.

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## THE MAIL

### War of words

Clifford Chadderton's comments about the Canadian War Museum's expansion plans ("Museum tales," The Mail, Jan. 12) go too far. Belittling the museum staff reflects on the credibility of the museum's many volunteers. We have worked hard to help the museum and believe in its plan to make all Canadians—wherever they are—aware of the contribution of the military to the development of Canada.

Col. Murray C. Johnston (ret.),  
Ottawa

### Health and gender

As a breast cancer survivor and a breast cancer researcher, I was delighted to read your cover story on "Women's health" (Jan. 12). Although it is encouraging that increased funding is being directed towards breast cancer research, it is important to remember that the "slice of the federal pie" is still alarmingly small in comparison with funding for diseases that affect primarily men, e.g. AIDS. From 1983 to 1996, approximately 10,000 Canadians (mostly men) died of AIDS. More than 30,000 Canadian women have died of breast cancer in the past two years alone. In 1996, the government provided more than five times as much funding for AIDS as for breast cancer. What's wrong with this picture? I am weary of losing wonderful friends, in the prime of their lives, to this dreaded disease for which we still have failed to find either a cause or a cure.

Susan R. Alsop,  
Vancouver

### Defending DeVry

As a former chairman of the technology program at DeVry Institute, I was very disappointed with your article ("A class in action," Education, Feb. 5). It exposed the negative experiences several students had during their stay at DeVry, but did not fully investigate the students' claims. There are many excellent qualities about DeVry that were not included in the article. DeVry provides the opportunity for individuals to obtain a higher education in the field of electronics—where the opportunity may not have existed before. Students can continue their education in the United States and receive a degree in technology. Upon completion of the degree, the option is available to find employment in the States, or obtain a master's in engineering. No other Canadian college provides this benefit. DeVry has been around for many years and will continue to be in the future.

John Lemish,  
Toronto





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Backstage



# Anthony Wilson-Smith

## When 'flexibility' breeds success

**T**wo years ago, two Ottawa-based political reporters were granted an interview with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. They decided to start with a soft question—asking that would get him in good humor for the tougher questions to come. The opening pitch—filled with the expectation that he would gleefully let it out of the park—was this: "What, Prime Minister, would you like most to be remembered for?" To their astonishment, Chrétien flinched, spluttered and then stopped. "I don't like that question. I am not interested in great visions, because all they come to trouble," he stated, he added, "I will settle for the people saying they were happy with me."

In politics, with all its doubletalk, every story carries at least two possible morals that can be used to please everyone. Supporters of the Prime Minister say that anecdote demonstrates his pragmatism—and his high popularity ratings illustrate the worth of that. Critics say Chrétien's lack of vision is because he is too busy stalling his opponents' ideas—while abandoning his own policies.

How nice to witness a truly Canadian consensus—both sides, even as they argue, are equally right. The Chrétien who last week firmly pledged Canadian military support in Iraq is the same one who vacillated on the same issue in 1991. The same man who vowed to "scrap" the Goods and Services Tax in 1993 now supports it vigorously. Ditto Chrétien's change of heart as the need arose to buy the same helicopter for the military that he scrapped in 1993. And there at the North American Free Trade Agreement he once denounced and now delights in, along with lesser—but no less obvious—turnabouts.

Through all that, Chrétien has won two nicknames, and has approval ratings in public opinion polls seldom dip. One explanation is that Chrétien has more in common with the average Canadian than either side now tries to admit. That includes a certain, unimpeachable, flexibility of opinion, allowing the premier to say one thing in private and another in public—a characteristic in evidence around any office water cooler. Another is that politics is filled with supposed truisms—but Chrétien long ago learned that not all of them make sense. Consider five rules that he, like other politicians before him, pays lip service to, but otherwise ignores.

1. **Once you've made up your mind, stick to it.** Well, no, as obvious from the above. But Chrétien is far from the only of his order. Brian Mulroney, leader of the Progressive Conservatives, Brian Mulroney supported the 1982 privatisation of the Canadian and voiced doubts about the viability of free trade. In office, he reversed course on both. Pierre Trudeau spent much of the 1974 election campaign mocking wage-price controls—and implemented

ed them shortly after. Bore is noted that Chrétien, Mulroney and Trudeau are the only three prime-ministers in recent history to win majorities in more than one election.

2. **Be consistent in all aspects of your party program.** A great rule to follow to become a permanent, principled voice of opposition, as is the case with the New Democratic Party on the left and Reform on the right. But in government, where prior parties often tag a sort of ideological buffet, seasoned with selected halibuts from both right and left. Chrétien is a conservative liberal on social and fiscal fronts, while Mulroney was a liberal conservative. Both built broad bases of support—which continue for the policies Mulroney implemented and Chrétien continues.

3. **The consensus accurately reflects the voice of average Canadians.** A noble sentiment, and a painful fallacy. MPV riding offices are like open-line radio shows, most callers represent either special-interest groups pushing a cause or are misinformed with a bone to pick. There is nothing wrong in this—but those who speak loudest do not necessarily speak for all. Then, there is the self-interest of individual MPs seeking re-election, which may cause them to pursue projects that don't necessarily match the goals of either their party or the country. For example, many liberal MPs believe increased spending (especially with their individual ridings) will help them keep their seats—but is such a thing consistent with the national will, or good?

4. **Polts are for dogs.** John Dinkeshaker, ironically said that, and it has been fashionable ever since to deride the use of warrens, focus groups and their ilk. But like them or not, polls give an accurate snapshot of public opinion, no matter what, or should, make key decisions without considering them.

5. **(a) Pay no heed to the media.** True, journalists are no more powerful than politicians, and the collective weight of the Parliamentary Press Gallery directly influences public opinion less than, say, a single column on *The New York Times*. But never underestimate the "obey the leader" factor—the sense that once an idea takes root in the public consciousness, no one knows, or cares, where it came from, even if the source is the dastardly media.

(b) **The media reflect the views of average Canadians.** Oh sure—just like courts, with just as much reluctance. Say it again: never think that those who speak the loudest speak for all. Too often, media members are too impressed by noise volume—starting with the ones.

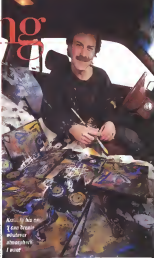
Small wonder, then, that Chrétien and other leaders sometimes conclude that what they say and what they really think need not be precisely the same. Perhaps, in the end, Canadians take their word for their political leaders no more—or less—seriously than they would

# Opening Notes

Edited by TANYA DAVIES

## Driven to paint

When Monroe Krantz, the "outsider artist" of the moment, is asked to define outside art, he hesitates before replying: "I don't have a clue what it means," says Krantz, 47, who has been painting for only five years. "I have no urge to paint, and whatever comes out, comes out." A simple yet beguiling explanation of outsider art, described by the term as art made without any formal training or conscious effort to create *avant-garde* art. In the past two decades, collectors and museums devoted to outsider art (also known as folk or raw art) have sprung up across Europe, Asia and the United States. Toronto-based Krantz worked as a freelance photo researcher for TV documentaries before his art was discovered by New York City dealer Jay Macos a year and a half ago. Now, private collectors, mostly from the United States, are clamoring to buy his paintings of dark, stylized faces for up to \$6,000. "I think they see all sorts of things," says Krantz. "My stuff is so ugly." He is so aware of being taken seriously as an artist that last year he turned down an offer of a free art studio, preferring to paint in his car, a 1992 Plymouth Stratus, proping his canvas on the reclined passenger seat. "I am peaceful and no-one bugs me," he says. "And I can create whatever atmosphere I want because I'm lonely." With two documentaries and a book on Krantz in the works, it appears that his ride has just begun.



Artist: As he can Krantz whatever atmosphere he wants

## Ending a PM's exile

Former prime minister Bob Rae (R. B. Bennett) could finally be coming home. The "Tory leader" who was in office from 1980 to 1985, is buried in Surrey, England, where he died in his bed in 1947, at age 77. But New Brunswick MLA Harry Doyle hopes to have Bennett's body returned to the vicinity of his birthplace—Hawthorn Hill, N.B. Doyle, a Liberal, would like to see the body reinterred on Canadian soil and the establishment of a permanent Bennett museum as a "historic act of reconciliation." Bennett, who made his fortune as a corporate lawyer in Alberta, was the



Born: wealthy

wealthiest Canadian prime minister. He is the only one not buried in Canada. Many Canadians blamed Bennett and his government for the hard times during the Great Depression, and after his defeat in 1935, Bennett went to England, where he was appointed to the House of Lords in 1936. Bennett of Michael Bennett of Michaels, Calgary and Haworth. Although a biographer described him as a "magnificent prig," some

## No Mickey Mouse prices

More than 15,000 people attended a Disney on Ice performance last November at Vancouver's GM Place. And while most seemed to find with the event, some are looking for just one thing: a sign of magic. Enchanted by the sight of Puck, many fans had purchased Disney merchandise. But those who had decided to charge a lot more than they bargained for. When their credit card bills arrived, they realized the prices quoted were in American dollars, and that they had to pay 40 per cent more than they were expecting. With credit cards still delayed by the mail strike, only 14 disgruntled buyers have complained so far to Data Ray Sports & Entertainment, the company that owns GM Place. "This should never have happened," says Mickey McGee, director of corporate communications at Data Ray. "We are doing everything we can to fix this." Officials called Vienna, Va.-based Sells-Flora & Co., the merchandiser that holds the license for Disney paraphernalia and processed the purchases. They eventually admitted that over 2,000 customers had been "mysteriously overcharged" at shows in Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto and immediately credited them. A fairy-tale ending.

## So long, tough guy

He has been there more than the Prime Minister's director of operations. During his 12 years by Jean Chrétien's side, Jean Carls, 55, has become more like a member of the family. So Carls will likely be a few years in Feb. 20 when Carls leaves his office in the Langevin Block for the last time to become senior vice-president of corporate affairs at the federal government-owned Business Development Bank of Canada in Montreal. Unbeknownst, there will be some cheers, too. As Chrétien's all-purpose aide and chief palooka, Carls has earned a reputation for unwavering loyalty, and for being fierce when he had to be. At last fall's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Vancouver, for instance, Carls threatened to remove the credit cards of a democratic journalist who tried to question the Prime Minister at a photo opportunity with South Korean President Kim Young-Sun. "I had a job to do," he told *Macleod's* last week in only his third interview since taking the post. "Sometimes I had to be tough, but I was always up front. I never stabbed people in the back." His replacement is Phil Sparke, who has replaced the PMO's assistant chief for 18 months. Carls' departure clearly marks a new era at the Prime Minister's Office, which is expected to undergo a major transformation in the months ahead. Next to go perhaps Peter Donohue, Chrétien's chief spin doctor. Carls has a message for him: "Leaving is hard." Even for tough guys.

## BEST-SELLERS

- FICITION**
1. *The River Lawyer*, John Grisham
  2. *Twelve*, Tim Winton (3)
  3. *Patience*, Lisa Klein (4)
  4. *Josephine*, Mary Jo Baker (5)
  5. *The Girl on the Train*, Rachel Watson (6)
  6. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott (7)
  7. *The Daylight Marriage*, David Shields (8)
  8. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott (9)
  9. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott (10)
  10. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott (11)
  11. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott (12)
  12. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott (13)
  13. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott (14)
  14. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott (15)
  15. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott (16)
  16. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott (17)
  17. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott (18)
  18. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott (19)
  19. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott (20)
  20. *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott (21)
- NON-FICTION**
1. *Leviathan*, Michael Ondaatje (2)
  2. *Leviathan*, Michael Ondaatje (3)
  3. *Leviathan*, Michael Ondaatje (4)
  4. *Leviathan*, Michael Ondaatje (5)
  5. *Leviathan*, Michael Ondaatje (6)
  6. *Leviathan*, Michael Ondaatje (7)
  7. *Leviathan*, Michael Ondaatje (8)
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  17. *Leviathan*, Michael Ondaatje (18)
  18. *Leviathan*, Michael Ondaatje (19)
  19. *Leviathan*, Michael Ondaatje (20)
  20. *Leviathan*, Michael Ondaatje (21)

## John Brown's truth

In the midst of Oscar House for the first time since his 1993 book, *The Secret War*, Russell Banks has released his 13th novel, *Cloudsplitter*. Set in 19th-century America, the story focuses on John Brown, the legendary abolitionist whose passion to eliminate slavery helped ignite the Civil War, establishing him as the Chic Guevara of his time.



Weeklies: maintaining independence

## Alternative capitalism

For years, Michael Hollett, publisher of *Toronto's* investment weekly newspaper *Now*, has been a vocal defender of the alternative press. He has even lobbied to keep websites that are part of free publishing companies—like his Toronto competitor, co-owned by *Canada's* and *the* *Alternative Press*. He has even lobbied to keep websites that are part of free publishing companies—like his Toronto competitor, co-owned by *Canada's* and *the* *Alternative Press*. He has even lobbied to keep websites that are part of free publishing companies—like his Toronto competitor, co-owned by *Canada's* and *the* *Alternative Press*.

# Passages



**DIED:** Former McGill University principal and internationally renowned surgeon **Harold Knoch**, 85, of pneumonia in Ottawa. Robertson became McGill principal in 1962, and successfully steered the university through the turbulent years of the Quiet Revolution.

**DIED:** Artist and former CBC host **William Ronald**, 71, of a heart attack, in Toronto. Ronald came to prominence in the 1950s with his abstract expressionist paintings. During the 1960s, he hosted CBC Radio's *Art in Progress*.

**DIED:** Former Communist Ontario MPP **Joseph Solberg**, 95, in Toronto. First elected to Queen's Park in 1943, Solberg rose to the number 2 spot in the Canadian Communist party. After he was elected in 1955, Solberg wanted Moscow and their democratic communists, effectively buying the party's chances in Canada.

**WIDOW:** A U.S. federal court decision by golfer **Gregory M. Sayers**, 25, against the PGA Tour, in Eugene, Ore. Martin, who has a rare circulatory disorder that makes it painful and dangerous to walk, had challenged the PGA's no-cart rule. The PGA is appealing the court's decision.

**AWARDED:** Canadian citizenship, to Toronto resident **Kim Phua**, 33, who became famous for a 1992 photograph that showed her running mad outside her Vietnamese village, ordered in 1992 by Minister of Citizenship and Immigration **Louise Robitaille**, in Toronto.

**AWARDED:** To **Emilio Schneider**, 50, widow of German industrialist **Oskar Schneider**, credited with saving 1,300 Polish Jews from deportation camps. President **Carlos Menem**, in Buenos Aires. Schneider and her husband moved to Argentina in 1948, but he left her destitute when he returned to Germany eight years later (he died in 1974).

**DIED:** Former maverick British MP **David Pym**, 85, in London. A fervent right winger in bed remembered for warring in 1968 that Britain had bloodshed unless it took no action in Vietnam.

# A brave new world

BY MARY JANIGAN

For four years, through hits and leaks, Paul Martin has used the same strategy to present his annual budget. And even with good news to deliver, as the federal finance minister heads into his fifth budget on Feb. 24, that tactic is still the order of the day. It seems difficult to remember those no-so-far-away days when federal budgets could flummox voters—and throw financial markets into overnight turmoil. The previous Conservative gov-

ernment presented relatively small—roughly \$4 billion in additional funds in 1997-1998—and Martin is doing everything within his power to downplay the initial size of the dividend. And although most economists predict that the cumulative dividend could surpass tens of billions of dollars throughout the first decade of the 21st century, assuring no major economic catastrophes occur, the finance minister will maintain that no one should expect him to throw caution to the wind. "The most important signal we want to get out is fiscal prudence," says a senior finance official. "We can start making investments in our future—but we are going to be very cautious about how we proceed."

This year, the budget's "big ticket" investment in the future is the Millennium Fund: federal scholarships for postsecondary students sponsored by rising tuition fees. The personal project of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, the fund was announced last fall and could go as high as \$3 billion—providing



**Paul Martin is taking the country into an era of no deficits**

as much as \$1 billion more in spending. After more than two decades of annual federal deficits, Martin will likely announce that the 1997-1998 federal budget is balanced—although he will stress that full numbers will not be available until this fall. He will unveil a balanced 1998-1999 budget—which offers breaks for low-income taxpayers and renewed social spending. And he will begin to pay down the country's \$280-billion debt—an event that many Canadians never believed they would see after so many years of ever-increasing red ink.

Then, he will repeatedly drive home his "no surprises" message for the next four years of Liberal government. There will be something for everyone ahead—as the so-called fiscal dividend grows. But that payoff is narrowly defined: with the budget balanced and resources intact, it is the money that Ottawa will have available to devote each year to new programs, debt reduction and tax breaks, using the tax measures and the program spending outlined in the February, 1997, budget as a base for calculations.

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The situation is especially volatile in Quebec—because the budget appears more days after this week's Supreme Court of Canada hearing on the question of Quebec's right to unilaterally declare independence. With tensions already

high, Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard will almost certainly charge that Ottawa is plucking money from hard-pressed Quebec taxpayers—and using it to make money profit within the province. "The Millennium Fund is really going to put the cat among the pigeons," observes Thomas d'Aquino, president of the influential Business Council on National Issues. "It will set the stage for a very tough and, at times, very bitter battle. And the only way Ottawa can win the argument is to say, 'Look, Canada is a united and indivisible nation.' The fund is a very direct way to give a helping hand to young people across the nation, to ensure that they have globally competitive skills."

Worse, a clash with the provinces could distract attention from Martin's central task: he must convince Canadians that his go-slow approach is justified in a deficit-free climate. The finance minister has vowed that one-half of the fiscal dividend over the life of the government will be devoted to increased social and economic spending, while the other half will be put towards the debt and tax reductions. So far, voters appear to accept that strategy. In a recent Liberal poll, 1,300 respondents were asked how they would distribute \$300 of surplus budgetary revenue on average, 844 said put towards increased funding for health care, education and pensions (\$33 went

towards the national debt, and only \$23 was reserved for tax cuts. So Martin's three-pronged approach appears to suit the public mood—at the moment.

But there is no guarantee that such patience will hold as the size of the potential fiscal dividend becomes clearer. Liberal insiders view the upcoming budget as a challenge. They note that, for the first time in the 1990s, their polls indicate that no single issue is preoccupying the public. Fewer than 30 per cent of Canadians—a low level in the measure 1980s—say that the most important issue is jobs, while no rival problem, such as national unity, even approaches that level of concern. Canadian are relaxing, floating between issues.

The budget offers a golden opportunity to fill the void—to ensure that the Liberals' issues focus on the public's issues. As a result, next week's budget will focus attention on the formidable problems of the \$280-billion debt. It will apply the \$3-billion contingency reserve in the 1997-1998 budget—plus some additional funds—towards reducing that debt. The size of the 1997-1998 debt will actually decline in relation to the size of the economy for the second consecutive year—which is also the second decline in 28 years. And, over the protests of many provinces, Ottawa will reassure Canadians that there will be more strategic federal spending on health and education—as the fiscal dividend grows and, just coincidentally, the next federal election approaches.

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sternly denounced a similar move last year as "contrary to the stated accounting policies of the government of Canada."

The 1998-1999 budget will feature new spending of at least \$1.5 billion. That includes \$1.66 billion for the 27 provinces, such as extra \$60 million for grants to students with disabilities—which the Liberals made during last year's federal election campaign. It also includes a wage increase for civil servants—and about \$200 million for such programs as technology research.

"There will be few health-care announcements this fall," says a taxpayer tax credits in Canada who care for infirm, lonely residents at home, funds for an Aboriginal Health Institute, and research into breast cancer, AIDS and tobacco dependency. It is difficult to start new federal programs because health care is a field of provincial jurisdiction—and the provinces have insisted that Ottawa restore funds to the basic system before it tackles new schemes such as pharmaceuticals.

That modest something-for-everyone approach frustrates the Liberals' opponents. Martin's strongest critic, the Reform party, argues that the finance minister's accounting ploys actually conceal heavy spending—distributed over several fiscal years. Instead, Finance Minister Mulroney is pushing for further debt reduction. "Canadians are getting a powerful message about what they want: pay the debt down," he said.

But the critics are not unified—the Tories are emphasizing the need for tax cuts, while the New Democrats and the Bloc Québécois want additional social spending. Such mixed opposition messages leave the Liberals where they always come to be and where the most votes usually lie—in the middle. Tim O'Brien, chief economist at the Bank of Montreal, notes that the fiscal deficit could balloon as high as \$11 billion in 1999-2000—but he cautions that Martin should not abandon his stance of fiscal rectitude even with the prospect of that loss. "If there were a dramatic shift in the direction of spending, I think the markets would see that as something of a problem," he says. So far, given Martin's reputation for creating problems, that is unlikely to be the case.

## FACING THE FUTURE WITH ROOM TO MANOEUVRE

The Budget Finance Minister Paul Martin will deliver on Feb. 24 is widely viewed as a watershed in deficit-free federal fiscal after 28 years of red ink on Ottawa's books. But in an interview in the Parliament Hill office last week with Maclean's Ottawa correspondent John Geddes, Martin's rare business as usual. (Excerpts)

**Maclean's:** Now is the budget-making job different this time around, compared to 1994 when you set out to eliminate the deficit?

**Martin:** Obviously, our books are not as tight as we did this way they were then. But that is no reason to remove the standards

cabinet ministers claiming for new initiatives. Are they out of touch? **Martin:** Cabinet members know there are needs to be met. But those same cabinet members, when you talk about priorities, are very much at one with the Canadian people. They are not saying, "Let's

spend all this money tomorrow." What they are saying is, "Let's build a long-term plan that will enable us to fulfil these needs, when it is right and proper to do so."

**Maclean's:** Is cabinet distracted by speculation that you and other senior ministers are jockeying for position to run for the Liberal leadership when the Prime Minister retires?

**Martin:** It is a total non-issue. Essentially, what you've got is a government with individual ministers very actively at work in their own portfolios. Nobody has a lot of time for backroom activities.

**Maclean's:** The budget is expected to contain some big education initiatives. Isn't that a personal responsibility?

**Martin:** We're going to respect provincial jurisdiction. But the problem of student debt is a responsibility of both levels of government. I don't believe it makes any sense for us to reduce the national debt by increasing debt on the generation that is going to determine whether this country is going to succeed in the next century.

**Maclean's:** This is being called the budget to usher in a new era. Do you feel that way about it?

**Martin:** I don't see the transition. Yes, this is a new mandate and the financial circumstances are different. Sure, we're going to have a little room to spend on high-priority areas. And, yes, we can begin to contemplate some tax reduction. And, yes, it is a lot healthier to be reducing some debt than increasing the deficit. When we look ahead, we had a plan—it is unfolding.

## Now for the tough part

BY ANTHONY WILSON SMITH

On an early evening in August of last year, in a restaurant in Ottawa's Le Breton district, Finance Minister Paul Martin was doing two things that come most naturally to him: debating and expounding. Over pasta and Chianti, Martin—typically with jacket off, tie loosened and sleeves rolled up—tried to convince a dinner acquaintance, who four years as finance minister, his toughest political challenges still by him. "You're gonna see," he said, forefinger jabbing the air. "Bringing the deficit down to zero is tough—but there is consensus on the need to do it. It's what comes after that no-one can agree on."

As the old saying goes, he worked in asking for what you want, because the dinner guest, he might get it. In this case, Martin, with the considerable baggage of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, has managed what few people thought possible four years ago: eliminating an annual deficit that then stood at over \$40 billion while suffering minimal political fallout. Some of Martin's obvious rewards, now that the goal is at hand, include a divided caucus, heated debate over what comes next—and a dismantling of his own government in cabinet. "That's a sign of long-term acquiescence," has always preoccupied him with policy—but now he is starting to worry what politics is all about.

That may seem strange given the 59-year-old Martin's background: his late father, Paul Sr., was a revered and admired, well-known Conservative politician, from 1955 to 1968. From his father, Martin inherited, among other things, a deep-seated belief in public service, a lifelong dedication to the Liberal party, a bigging dose of stubbornness, a built-in temper, and either an unwillingness or an inability to master the black art of backroom politicking upon which most successful careers are made. That, some colleagues suggest, was one of the reasons why Paul Sr. never became prime minister, despite three attempts.

Like father like son—and in this particular instance, that could be a problem for Martin in the looming post-deficit world of Ottawa, until now, Martin's take-no-prisoners style

has arguably been the single biggest reason why he won over a skeptical finance department and Liberal caucus on the need to move quickly to bring the deficit to zero. When the department, his regular critics of "baldness" during meetings and withering denunciations of bureaucratic double-speak, are known as The Weathers along with every one who works closely with him has been

wined and speculation like about Martin's own leadership hopes, associates of both men acknowledge that Chrétien may be tempted to distance himself from his finance minister in caucus.

Questions about the future are another reason why the finance minister must be careful. Despite intense media speculation to the contrary, there is an evidence that

## With his fifth budget, Paul Martin's career is at a crossroads



With wife Lucie, every finance minister eventually runs out of ideas

subjected to one. (These same people were won over when they realized that Martin's commitment to spending cuts made their department more powerful than ever before.) In a caucus, his early resistance to financing almost every department wish or freeze their budgets was his tenacity and prodigious respect—and cost him on the side of nightmarish within.

Now, to further advance both himself and his goals, Martin must resist himself—or a divided cabinet. Some caucus members want him to continue his tight reins on spending; many others want that loosened. The dilemma, says one of Martin's close political allies, "is not just how much you spend, but where—the manner you take your deficit out, you start raising all kinds of expenditures." Moreover, will any Martin and Chrétien have actually presented a national deficit in public. But with the caucus de-

gert to be his last, Martin's wife, Lucie, has never pretended any great enthusiasm for politics. And with a net worth that was once estimated at more than \$30 million—derived from his 1982 purchase of majority control of Canada Steamship Lines—Martin need not worry about his future. In short, much depends on Chrétien's own plans—will as Martin's relations with others in caucus. Another friend of Martin's writes the customary tale of a rooster British MP who, upon election, excitedly entered the House of Commons for the first time. "Ah," he said to his mistress, gesturing across the aisle to the other parties, "it's good to actually see your enemies in flesh." He responded his employer, a parliamentary veteran: "Those, my friend, are only your opponents. Your enemies are closer, all around you." Martin, who does not already do so, would do well to appreciate the difference. □



Student protests in Vancouver are a new education fund

necessity of controlling spending. What's happening is we're getting the message to cut back.

**Maclean's:** Will part of that rethinking involve cutting taxes?

**Martin:** I've said I want to begin the process in this mandate of lowering taxes, primarily for low- and middle-income Canadians, and wherever we do it in this budget or in another budget, obviously we are getting closer to that.

**Maclean's:** Why not embrace speeding the deficit with some across-the-board tax relief now?

**Martin:** The day after you balance the books you don't all of a sudden have the load of money that would allow you to do that. Until you have the money, you do your best with the impact it going to be the greatest and where people need it the most.

**Maclean's:** Poles suggest Canadians are not enthusiastic about Ottawa embarking on new spending. But there are reports of



## CANADA FROM Monkey business

**R**eggie is having an excellent morning. The playful 10-year-old chimpanzee sits regally, and with serene accuracy, at a photographer trying to take his picture. He then lopes over to a wooden play apparatus his new caregiver, Greta, hoists and langes into the air towards a rope dangling from the ceiling. He swings—and lands to the ground a few feet below with a thud. There are few dull moments at this chimpanzee sanctuary run by Gloria Greig, a pet groomer and animal activist, and her veterinarian partner, Richard Allan. One of only a few sanctuaries of its kind in North America, the refuge, 30 km south of Montreal, is a retirement home of sorts for 35 chimps—eight of them infected with HIV—who were used in medical research at a New York University laboratory in Tuxedo, N.Y. "They stole my science this morning," says Greig, 62, pointing to the marks one of the chimps has left on a window. "Is this a day care, really?"

The chimps live in a nondescript three-story building set well back from the couple's home in this semi-rural community. In fact, several people who live nearby were not even aware of their new, dirty neighbors. "It was a surprise," concedes Roslyn Smith, 67, who lives a few kilometers down the road but only recently heard about the sanctuary. "I think it's great—they have a lot of land." To be coaxed, 41 hectares—although there is no hint on Greig and Allan's tranquil property of the racket going on inside the building. But inside, as

linchpin approaches, a group of chimps join in a chorus of low howl sounds that reach an ear-piercing crescendo as Greig's mother, Agnes, prepares fruit and other food for Regis, Jethro, Tolo and the rest of the animals.

They began arriving last September from the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates, which mainly conducted HIV and hepatitis research on chimpanzees but closed down in December (chimps have 98 per cent of the same DNA as humans). "I think what they are doing is absolutely fantastic," Jean Goodall recently told Marlene's about Greig and Allan's chimps. And Goodall, who has studied chimpanzees in Africa for more than 30 years and visited the sanctuary in October, praised the couple for giving the chimps a future. Like in a laboratory, though, has left its mark. When the animals first arrived, they were hairless, and only one of the chimps took advantage of the play apparatus. Greig, who is the chimps' chief caretaker, says that while there is still an shortage of behavioral problems, she and Allan have noticed a marked improvement since last fall. "The animals are to see someone in their eyes," says Greig.

Greig conceived the idea for a refuge in 1986 when she spent a two-week holiday at the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Wash. Concerned about the plight of laboratory chimps, she recalls thinking "Why can't I build a sanctuary?" After hearing about the impending closure of the New York University lab, which had 225 chimps, she and Allan made inquiries, and then visited the facility last year to make arrangements for adopting some of the animals. They eventually got the green light—although Allan cautions that they spent \$200,000 from their savings in the process. "It's crazy, isn't it," he chuckles.

Looking after man's closest relative is no small task. Greig spends 11 hours a day at the sanctuary where she is helped by volunteers. She rarely stops working. She cleans out their cages and the grubs the phone to consult the former acting director of the New York lab about one chimp's diarrhea. She then distributes lunch to the animals, who gubble up to 20 varieties of food a day including fruits, vegetables and rice—at a cost of \$300 a week. Greig also tries to make life as in-

**The chimps are their new masters: a weekly food list of \$300**

volving as possible for the chimps with activities such as making them forage for their food. Enriching their lives, says Greig, "is what it's all about."

The chimps provide their own matched Due Day. Greig recalls, Regis grabbed a base that was spinning water—and six other chimps quickly joined in. "They were pulling it down as trying to do tug-of-war," she says. Greig and Allan now plan to build more space for the chimps. They are also setting up a chimpanzee adoption center and an endowment to ensure the chimps' continued care because, with a 40-year lifespan, some of the animals may outlive them. Although the couple never wanted children, Allan says, "In a way, they're our 10 kids."

As the chimps settle down after lunch, Greig who on the floor outside Petri's cage and strokes the chimp's outstretched arm. Adelle Perles lies still, then reaches for a paper towel and gently strokes it down the back of Greig's shirt. "I can't give them back the jungle," Greig says. "But the most important thing of all is that there is a life after research." Regis, a member of the low boomer group, appears to have found it as he runs around the recreation area and playfully kicks another chimp in the head. Retirement seems to suit him just fine.

BERNIE HANAWELL

## Canada NOTES

### WAITING FOR A SENATOR

Reform MPs, sporting umbrellas, danced to Mexican music while waiting for the Senate, anticipating a visit by absent Senator Andrew Thompson, 73. But Thompson, expelled from the Liberal caucus in November because of his attendance record, did not comply with the Senate's order to take his seat last week. A Senate committee this ordered him to appear this week to explain why he has attended the Senate only 96 times in the past 16 years. Thompson, who claims he is ill, replied in a handwritten fax from Mexico that he knows he is expected, but did not say whether he will appear.

### BLOOD TRAIL

The RCMP launched a criminal investigation into Canada's tainted blood scandal. The focus says the decision is based on more information that was not made public during Justice Horace Kravitz's blood inquiry. In his final report, delivered in December, Kravitz found widespread mismanagement of the country's blood system between 1983 and 1987, which resulted in about 2,000 people contracting the AIDS virus and 80,000 being infected with hepatitis C.

### TAX HEAVEN

Alberta Treasurer Stockwell Day tabled a budget that cuts the province's personal income tax rate by 1.5 per cent to make it the lowest in Canada. Alberta expects a \$185-million surplus in 1995-1996, down considerably from \$2.2 billion in the last budget because of lower energy prices.

### A DOCTOR IN COURT

Dr. Nancy Monahan's preliminary hearing begins in Halifax with provincial court Judge Hughes Rendell giving the doctor's request for a publication ban. Monahan charged with the first-degree murder of Paul Mills, 65, although the Crown has said it will proceed on a lesser charge of manslaughter. Mills died in an inshore car accident in 1995, the court case is expected to focus attention on mercy killing.

### A MYSTERIOUS DEATH

Twelve-year-old Myra Neils of Chatham, Ont., after her parents asked doctors to remove her from life support a week after he was found hanging unconscious from a tree hook in a school washroom. At midnight, police were still investigating the incident.

## Judgment day in the Virk case

**L**ast November's brutal beating and drowning death of Victoria's schoolgirl Reena Virk, allegedly at the hands of teenagers she considered her friends, drew international attention. Many wondered how a group of youths, aged 14 to 18 and almost all girls, could have participated in the savage assault. At the trial of six of them in Victoria last month, a picture emerged of a premeditated attack fuelled by a rash mentality. Teenage witnesses told Judge Alan Finner how Virk, 14, was lured to a local hangout, a double bridge over tidal inlets north of Victoria. As a group of teens watched, she was surrounded by seven girls. According to testimony, one of them stubbed out a cigarette on her forehead. When Virk tried to flee, she was repeatedly kicked in the face and back. Monahan, 16, who staggered away from the scene, told again it was police on calling a senior inquest. Her body was pulled from the inlet a week later.

Three of the six girls, aged 14 and 15, pleaded guilty to assault causing bodily harm and are to be sentenced on April 14. The other three, 14 to 16, pleaded not guilty to the same



Virk's mother (left), grandmother, six girls guilty of assault

charges connected to witnesses, they instigated the attack because one believed Virk had loitered in her address block, while another accused her of getting involved with her boyfriend. They were convicted at the end of the four-day trial and are to be sentenced to a maximum of 18 months this week. After their conviction, defense lawyers revealed that two of the three had been witnesses to the murders of their friend. Two other teens, a 15-year-old girl and a 16-year-old boy, still face charges of second degree murder.

## Lashing out at Ottawa

In one of the strongest attacks yet on Ottawa's constitutional challenge to Quebec's self-proclaimed right to unilateral secession, Premier Lucien Bouchard lashed out at the federal government. Bouchard said the case, which is being heard by the Supreme Court of Canada this week, amounted to nothing less than "federal imperialism" that would "undermine Quebec's democracy." "The last word doesn't belong to a single man, or a government, or a list imposed from on high," Bouchard said in a pointed reference to the Canadian Constitution, patriated in 1982 without Quebec's agreement. "We think the last word belongs to the Quebec people."

Bouchard's offensive came in a speech delivered to students at the University of Montreal law faculty, as opposition to the federal challenge—condemned by Quebec sovereignty and federalists alike—continued to grow. In the House of Commons, both the Tories and the New Democrats reported a motion tabled by the Bloc Quebecois, declaring that "it is in fact federalism to freely decide their own future." Last federal Inquest revealed Attorney Minister Stephen Doon had once signed words of his own for the Quebec press. "The approach towards secession which he is considering would be unacceptable in all democracies of the world," Doon said.

## NOVA SCOTIA March showdown

**A**fter weeks of speculation, Nova Scotia Attorney General Michael O'Neil said the province will launch a \$7.5-million fight, with his bid to force the Liberals to face his opponent's prosecutor, John Sweeney, stopped seven last July. His bid to convince Nova Scotia that the days of provincial government attacks in court after a series of judicial setbacks—resulting in a \$10-million bill to the province—were over. Michael has been at court just partly successful: dozens of days out of court to suspend justice law health and education, the Liberals recently moved from their first place in the polls. But so the two party leaders hit the headlines last week, Michael, a former MP, came out swinging. Robert Chisholm, whose NDP has targeted in the polls, accused him of carrying the case. Brown's card is in the docket, while Roy John Hamlin said the Gove's "two years in power did not include a single success story."

## The humpback of Notre Dame.



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Ten-thousand-year-old icebergs drift  
This is the place where their paths cross.  
of the world. They say you can't see the

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A NEWSWIRE AT  
GPH WASHINGTON  
political crisis

# Bound for the Gulf

## Canada joins the U.S. mission against Iraq

BY ANDREW PHILLIPS

The orders came through just before midnight, as IMCS Toronto was flowing through rough seas in the Atlantic just outside the Strait of Gibraltar. In Ottawa, 5,400 men and five warships to the west, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien was on his feet in the House of Commons. Canada, the middle client, was ready to send forces to the Persian Gulf once again to stand with the United States as it threatens to launch another attack on Iraq. Absent the Toronto, a three-year-old frigate that is one of Canada's most modern warships, Cmdr Bret Johnson prepared to break away from routine NATO exercises and set course through the Mediterranean and into the Gulf with his crew of 118. Being ordered to join the U.S. armada staring down Saddam Hussein, he acknowledged later, "was a bit of a shock—but we're worked up and we're focused."

Ready, set, steady—but for what? Ottawa's decision last week to dispatch the Toronto to the Gulf, along with two RCN-330 Hercules refueling aircraft from Winnipeg, provided Washington with modest military assistance but valuable political support as its determined campaign to prevent Saddam from developing so-called weapons of mass destruction. With the time for a diplomatic solution fast running out, the Americans were leaning on their friends to show some spine. President Bill Clinton spent 15 minutes on the phone with Chitien

on Sunday, Feb. 8, to nail down Canada's commitment. Officially, the Liberal government did not give the troops that are scheduled Tuesday morning, during a violent storming in which Chitien left no doubt where he stood. Saddam, he joked, had a history of taking recalcitrant countries outside his cabinet room and marching them on the spot. Australia also pledged military help, while Germany, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Belgium altered the use of bases for U.S. aircraft. But even as other countries lined up to express at least token support, the doubts about a new attack on Iraq were mounting fast.

What, asked a growing chorus of critics, will another bombing campaign accomplish? In Washington, U.S. officials lowered expectations all week, saying that air strikes cannot be expected to eliminate Saddam's capacity to produce chemical and biological weapons—but only, in Clinton's own words, to "substantially reduce or delay" it. The best solution, they insisted, is still a diplomatic agreement that would give United Nations weapons inspectors unrestricted access to all sites in Iraq, including the right-to-called prohibited sites that Saddam's government has declared off-limits. And Clinton said that threatening force was the only way to bring about a negotiated solution to the crisis. "We don't indicate that we are serious," he told reporters in Ottawa, "nothing will happen."

But even in Washington, Clinton was fighting hard to get the kind of bipartisan support that U.S. presidents can normally count on when young Americans are sent to harm's way. Congress had been

expected to pass a resolution last week expressing support for an attack on Iraq, if necessary. But it adjourned until next Monday, Feb. 23, without taking action, reflecting divisions and doubts in both parties—as well as confusion over the administration's apparently shifting goals in the region. "The Congress," said Republican Senator Arlen Specter, "is speaking loudly by not speaking at all." Republicans, in particular, worried openly that even intense air strikes would leave Saddam in place, yet could eliminate any chance of getting Iraq to comply with UN inspections. "What is the endgame?" asked Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott. "If we do go to a military action, what is our position when that's over, if Saddam Hussein is still there?"

In Canada, too, pointed questions came not only from predictable quarters—such as New Democrats who worried that renewed combat would be followed by an attack on, well, almost certainly would. Lewis Mackenzie, the retired major-general and veteran of UN peacekeeping in Bosnia, argued that air strikes have no chance of solving the region's problems. "During the Gulf War, the allies bombed Iraq for five weeks and didn't get rid of the dangerous weapons," he said. "How can they do it now?" The American mission, added Mackenzie, is poorly defined—and Canada should be asking Washington to spell out its long-term objectives before sending in "too should always ask yourself: what's next," he said. "They'd better get it answer."

In fact, the 300 to 400 Canadian troops involved in what Ottawa last week officially named Operation Determination are unlikely to be in much danger no matter what happens. In a sense that Mackenzie constantly called "typical Canadian," they will be deployed far from harm's way. The Toronto, a 4,200-tonne Halifax-class frigate, will likely help out as an escort for the U.S. battle group moved in the Gulf. The American has three attack carriers, a dozen other combat warships and about 300 combat aircraft; last week the Pentagon dispatched 140 more to the region, bringing the U.S. total to 30,000 troops. The United States' most modern aircraft carrier, the USS *Enterprise*, has sent a carrier and three other ships. The Toronto, commissioned in 1994, is equipped with antiair, anti-surface and anti-land weapons, as well as a 35-year-old Sea King helicopter used for anti-submarine operations. Unlike much of Canada's aging fleet, the Toronto is state of the art. Johnson, its 45-year-old captain, took command only in late January, and said with understandable pride that "we sail in the best league in the world."

He and his crew are unlikely to come under direct threat. Iraq's offensive power has been damaged by the 1991 Gulf War and seven years of UN embargo that it has almost no capacity to attack enemy ships. Nonetheless, the Canadian were to be inoculated against anthrax, one of the biological agents that Iraq is believed to possess, and to undergo training for a possible chemical attack.

The two Canadian Hercules air-to-air refueling planes are less glamorous, but they prove to be more useful. Since only Kuwait and Bahrain, of all the Gulf states, have agreed to let American warplanes operate from their soil, most sorties will be flown from Canadian carriers. The U.S. naval aircraft will provide most of the striking power against Iraq, as smaller ships and surface planes have relatively short ranges, and so will need to be refueled in flight before striking their targets. Each Hercules can refuel as many as 40 a day—a significant contribution during an air war as ongoing.

If it does come to that, there is little doubt that the attack will be intense—much as it knows scores of men of chemical and biological weapons, key military installations, and the Republican Guard troops upon whom Saddam relies so heavily. One significant change since the 1991 Gulf War that end with Iraq's expulsion from Kuwait is that almost all the 230,000 allied fighters and bombers in the region are now equipped with so-called smart bombs that are guided to their targets by lasers or satellites. As a result, their punch will be more accurate—and more deadly. "We are not interested," U.S. undersecretary of state Thomas Pickering stressed last week, "in jagged strikes or demonstration strikes or symbolic strikes."

The problem for American leaders is that precise U.S. attacks since 1991 have been essentially painless—most recently a few cruise missiles launched in 1996 when Saddam moved against Kurdish rebels in the north. With that experience behind him, says analyst Richard Haass, Saddam may well have misjudged Washington's resolve. "It's not a mistake last fall when he barred the UN weapons inspectors from the presidential compound and set off the current crisis," he calculated, "that he would face only a small military strike," says Haass, who was a top state department official during the Gulf War.

In fact, a growing number of analysts say that Saddam may actually welcome a U.S. attack. By not calculating, he would hinder down, although the damage to his military forces, and count on world opinion swinging his way in the best scenario for Iraq, scores of widespread damage and civilian casualties (so-called collateral damage) might inflame Arab opinion, turn Russia decisively against Washington, and the UN weapons inspection program once and for all, and perhaps generate the UN to come or drop its economic sanctions against Iraq. "He's a risk-taker," says Judy Yung, an Iraq specialist at the National Defense University in Washington. "His calculation is that we won't be able to do the kind of damage we'll like to do, that we'll have played our cards out and then have to step back and watch him say, 'The olive, I won.'"

With U.S. and allied forces pouring into the Gulf, pressure for an attack is clearly growing. Speculation about timing now focuses on a three-week period beginning around Feb. 28 or 27. By then, Congress will have returned sitting in Washington and will likely have passed a resolution expressing support for Clinton. Washington will be able to argue that it allowed plenty of time for diplomatic efforts to succeed. U.S. forces will be in place and the Winter Olympics in Nagano, which the Japanese government asked be respected as a period of peace, will be over. The window for an attack will close around the end of March, when Muslims begin gathering for the haj, their annual pilgrimage to the holy sites of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia. Striking Iraq then, they think, would add insult to injury for Muslims.

Yet despite the range of threats and mounting forces, there are reasons to believe that an attack might still be averted. The balance of forces is very different from early 1991, when the Gulf War was about to begin. Then, both sides were con-



Clinton and  
Defense Minister  
Art Eggen  
critics

## WORLD

ident they could win. The U.S.-led coalition had passed overwhelming force on Kuwait's borders and felt sure it could sweep Iraq's troops away. Saddam, meanwhile, clearly believed his own propaganda—that U.S. ground forces would suffer unacceptably high losses and American public opinion would turn against him up the daisy. This time, notes analyst Haseen, now director of foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institution in Washington, both sides are uneasy. Iraq appears to have underestimated the scale of the blow that the United States is prepared to deliver, while the Clinton administration is nervous that the ill-effects of an air strike will be world reaction that would kill him. As a result, says Haseen, "both sides are interested in scoring diplomatic work."

Those efforts continued in earnest last week. As U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen travelled through Europe, the Midwest and Russia in an attempt to win support for a possible attack, others tried unsuccessfully to find a peaceful solution. In Cairo, Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saad Al-Sabhat offered to allow inspectors appointed by the secretary general of the United Nations to visit eight major provincial sites in Iraq for up to two months. But the UN says Iraq has prevented its inspectors from entering many more sensitive locations—as many as 50, including forests of palaces and residences built for Saddam and his closest cronies. And Washington is adamant that Iraq must comply with the agreement that it signed after the Gulf War allowing UN inspectors to enter all Iraqi facilities for unlimited periods. Moreover, it says, Iraq must permit the same inspectors who have been working since 1991 to continue their searches for chemical and biological weapons, and can not demand that new issues be selected. "We feel very strongly there should be clear, unfettered access to all sites," said the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Bill Richardson.

Still, Washington is clearly hoping that Saddam will finally back down in the face of the American forces raised against him—what American planners last week dubbed Operation Desert Thunder. Most analysts have already concluded that the political cost of an attack to the United States would be so high, and its military effectiveness so low, that the real goal of Clinton's policy is to intimidate Iraq into complying with UN resolutions and allowing the inspectors back in. By that calculation, he will already have failed if the surprises and missiles are unleashed.

WIKI/ANN DELMONT and LEON FENNER in Ottawa and BARRY CAME in London

## WHO FOLLOWS SADDAM?

It is, by near-universal agreement, the root of the problem. Even those who oppose a direct military assault against Iraq acknowledge that the best resolution of the crisis would be the fall of Saddam Hussein—dead or alive. Yet there has been precious little debate about what would likely follow the disappearance of Iraq's long-ruling, utterly ruthless dictator. And therein lies the heart of the dilemma facing U.S. President Bill Clinton. "When Saddam goes, as he inevitably must, he will leave behind a power vacuum at the top in Iraq," says veteran Iraqi opposition politician Lami Kubbaj in his self-imposed exile in London. "It is a recipe for chaos."

The fundamental problem is the con-

tinued over the eventual succession. At the moment, Qusay, in charge of Iraq's all-pervasive state security system, seems to have the upper hand, if only because Uday is still recovering from wounds he sustained last year when he narrowly escaped an assassination attempt. "If Saddam's end is finally engineered from within his own inner circle," says Sabhan Mushrafi, another leading member of the London exiles, "it will likely involve one or the other of his sons."

He first is likely to prove much less bloodthirsty than his father. Qusay was the architect of the recent, infamous "cleansing" of Iraq's prison system, which saw the execution of all 12,000 inmates serving sentences of more than 15 years. Uday is believed to be behind the murders last month of eight Iraqis in Amman, also bloodily shot to death during a dinner party in the Jordanian capital. Those killings, in fact, signalled another ongoing power struggle between Uday and a third contender for Saddam's empire, Barzan al-Takriti. Formerly Iraq's ambassador to Britain and, as a Saddam's half-brother and his daughter is one of Uday's former wives. "Barzan is someone to be watched," says opposition politician Kubbaj. "He has been positioning himself as an alternative, probably with at least some support from the Americans."

Definitely out of the picture is the London-based Iraqi National Congress. Led by former banker Ahmad Chalabi, the INC has since a broad coalition of 13 Iraq opposition groups formed in the wake of the 1990 Gulf War. (Sole leaders say it was loosely funded, to the tune of \$450,000 per month, by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency it disintegrated, however, in 1996, primarily because the CIA attempted to turn it into an intelligence-gathering operation in northern Iraq. Washington now is believed to be behind the recent formation of the Jordanian-based Al Wakeel (Reconciliation), consisting mainly of former Iraqi military officers and prominent members of the once influential Iraqi Baath party, the two pillars of the Iraq ruling structure. "The Americans think they are the only two groups powerful enough to overthrow Saddam," says Kubbaj. "It's probably true. But don't count on it."

Saddam may have good reason to regard his sons with a wary eye. The London-based Iraqi exile community has been rife with rumors for many months about a struggle for power between the



The unknown with some Uday (left) and Qusay power struggle

plete lack of any even moderately organized alternatives to Saddam, either within Iraq or among the million-strong Iraqi exile community. Iraq's strongest has proven to be brutally efficient in eliminating potential threats during his three decades in power. He is, after all, the man who once fatally shot his own defence minister for daring to disagree with him during a cabinet meeting. Both Iraqi exiles and foreign diplomats with recent experience in Baghdad report that he is so suspicious that he no longer sees his two daughters, who are under house arrest after Saddam ordered the 1996 murder of their husbands for defecting to Jordan. Even his two favored sons—Uday and Qusay—are said to be kept away from the network of clandestine concrete bunkers Saddam has been haunting ever since he provoked the latest confrontation with the United States.

Saddam may have good reason to regard his sons with a wary eye. The London-based Iraqi exile community has been rife with rumors for many months about a struggle for power between the



RUGGED. YET ELEGANT.  
THE CHEVY TAHOE.







Howles on a rotating mission: 'like a self-serve gas station'

three were unfit for action last week they were being tested to determine why their high-tech air-to-air missile systems constantly, and embarrassingly, malfunctioned.

Yet when it comes to handling Iraq, what most holds Canada back is commitment, not equipment. The last Canadian armada bound for the Gulf consisted of two old destroyers and a single supply ship. Their role was strictly secondary: deliver the Iraqis' embargo and be ready to aid U.S. aircraft carriers.

As for Canada's fighter planes, Brian Mulroney's Tory government was reluctant to commit them to combat, preferring instead to have them fly over the Gulf to protect the American warships.

If war breaks out this time, Canada's planes will be even farther from the front lines. Working at a distance as high as 7,500m, the Hercules aircraft can offload 3,000 kg of fuel in four to five minutes, refuel two planes simultaneously and keep up a refueling stream at 15 to 20 minutes. "Air-to-air refueling is a task that's not that difficult," observes Lt.-Col. Don Leboeuf, 435 Squadron's wingman base commander. "It's like a self-serve gas station in the air."

Canadian air crews are not expected to be in much danger during the mission. But if the unthinkable happens, the blame will be laid squarely with the Prime Minister who sent them. Ironically, that is the same Joe

## WORLD AUSTRALIA

# Royal challenge

Voters will decide whether to get rid of the Queen

When Australian Prime Minister John Howard rose from a green leather bench in Canberra's Old Parliament House to open a constitutional convention, he was surrounded by ghosts of the country's British past. Even the Speaker's chair is carved from oak taken from Lord Nelson's flagship, HMS Victory. But the strongest historical link—the connection with British royalty—could disappear following a vote last week that moves the country closer to becoming a republic.

The 120 convention delegates spent 10 days hammering out a deal that could replace the Queen as the ceremonial head of Australia with a president chosen by parliament. A referendum will be held on the issue in 1999, but supporters of the crown have already vowed to fight every inch of the way. "We will never give up," said mount-chestnut-winged Bruce Brown. "This ridiculous proposal will be defeated."

Howard—himself a strong supporter of the Queen—promised to hold the convention during the 1998 election amid mounting support for the republican option. According to recent polls, just over half of Australians favor a figurehead president, while 46 per cent want to keep the Queen. But from the outset, the republicans were badly divided over how to replace the Queen's representative, the Canadian-style governor-general. Some factions favoured a small constitutional convention to elect the president, while others felt he or she should be voted in by the people. Finally, just as it appeared that the republicans were hopelessly divided, a compromise was

offered: not to be put to the Australian people.

Howard may also have had an eye to voting patterns. In the past, only eight of 44 proposals to change the Australian Constitution have passed in referendums. More than 100 years ago, the republicans made a fatal error by ignoring opinion polls that

showed that the country was not ready to become a republic. They noted that 14 per cent of the population is now of British origin. "I have a sense that as a nation we are now starting to think about creating a uniquely Australian identity, and not just simply accepting what was handed down," said youth delegate Mia Haddadin, 19. Republicans, too, cited Canada, although in a less flattering way. Victoria state governor Richard McGowan said constitutional issues could not be left to fate. "It's time apart a federal democracy," he warned. "We should all learn from what has happened in Canada since they started their earnest constitutional debates in the



Delegates in Canberra, on head of state, an amendment to republican

showed about two-thirds of voters would be willing to accept a president who was directly elected. "I suspect there's going to be a big backlash," said Lloyd Waddy, co-leader of Australians For A Constitutional Monarchy. More neutral observers agreed. "If Howard and one or two of the state premiers campaign against it," said political scientist John Warburton of Australian National University in Canberra, "the odds are, at the moment, that it wouldn't pass."

The traditionalists argued that the present system, adopted when the six states joined the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901, had brought almost a century of stability—so why change it? After all, they noted, the only power the Queen has is to approve nominations for governor-general. Many felt that Canada is an example of how well the British system had worked.

The republicans also pledged that native rights would be reinforced for the first time in the proposed revision, although once-famous Neville Bonner, the only Aboriginal to serve as a federal politician, contended that native rights to land could be undermined if the link to the crown was cut.

Despite the pamphlets, Australian analysts shared the view of many Canadian commentators that republicanism seems to be a monster in Canada. Aside from the constitutional preoccupation with Quebec, said Cheryl Saunders, director of Monarchy University's Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies, "Canada's desire to distinguish itself from the United States makes it less likely than Australia to abandon the monarchy." For Australians—and the Queen—next year may be decisive.

TOM FINNELL with LINDSEY ARKLEY in Melbourne

## WORLD

# Barely in the game

He is not nearly a top gun, but Canada's best pilot headed for the Free Air Gulf is a square-jawed, bearded 43-year-old who looks, talks and walks as if he just emerged from Hollywood central casting. May Dave Ross spent the last confrontation with Iraq inside the cockpit of a Hercules transport, flying supplies to the allied forces ranged against Saddam Hussein's regime in the buildup to the 1991 Gulf War. So Ross is at least as aware of what lies ahead when he takes off as a young man who should return about 200 members of his Winnipeg-based 435 Squadron's 17 Wing survive at their Gulf operations have something this week. "I came home last night from a 12-day training mission and told my wife that I was leaving again on a trip for three months," he explained last week while drinking the preparations for the two Hercules aircraft that make up Canada's entire air commitment to the latest anti-Iraq effort. "I'm a pretty nervous, excited, whole bunch of conflicting things."

The emotions are natural, even if Canada is once again committed to playing a peripheral role in the bigger drama. Back in 1981, Canada sent three ships, as well as a squadron of CF-18 fighter aircraft. This time, Ottawa has deployed a single fighter, HMCS Toronto, May City, Lewis Mackenzie, a former UN peacekeeping commander. "We just don't have the resources anymore." At the same time, military hardware is wearing out and breaking down. Only 80 of the air force's 125 CF-18 fighters are now able to fly. Some aircraft are being cannibalized to keep others in the air. The navy is still waiting to replace its oldest Sea King helicopter, one of which is aboard the Toronto. And even though the naval base has 12 new state-of-the-art frigates designed to battle weapons, planes and submarines,



Canada's forces are a shadow of their Gulf War strength

Prior Prime minister Mulroney

looked like the champion of parliamentary propriety travel last week as he returned to hold a vote on the issue, then after a cabinet meeting announced that he had no choice but to support the U.S.-led coalition involving a military bombardment of Iraq. "We believe that Canada cannot stand on the sidelines at such a moment," he declared. The crew of the Toronto and pilots like Dave Ross must be clearly determined to be ready for action that the country and its diminished military seemed just barely in the game.

JOHN DEMONT with LINDSEY ARKLEY in Ottawa and DANIELLE LYNN in Winnipeg

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## IRISH TALKS TROUBLE

San Feliu, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, faced suspicion from both the Northern Ireland peace talks after British police linked the IRA with the murders of two Protestants. The IRA flatly denied involvement, but any of the six other participants in the talks could ask for a vote to expel San Feliu, probably temporarily. The organization was allowed to participate in the negotiations until July after the IRA agreed to halt all bombings and killings.

## INDONESIAN CRACKDOWN

Indonesian President Suharto ordered his military to "take stern action" to suppress food riots and anti-free-trade protests that have erupted in Jakarta, the capital, and several provincial towns in the wake of the country's economic crisis. The government also announced plans to peg the embattled rupiah at a fixed exchange rate against the dollar and other currencies.

## AFGHAN QUAKE AID

In the first days after the devastating Feb. 4 earthquakes in northeastern Afghanistan killed more than 4,000 people and left 15,000 homeless, at least 50 journalists reached the area, but only a handful of doctors and aid workers—bitter medicine for survivors struggling to stay alive in the snow. However, by Feb. 15, heavy snowfalls ended, allowing UN and Red Cross planes to fly in with several tons of food, blankets and plastic sheeting.

## CUBA TO FREE PRISONERS

Cuban President Fidel Castro's government announced it would release more than 200 prisoners, including some political detainees, following Pope John Paul II's visit to the Communist island late in January. The date on which they will be released was not disclosed, but the Vatican said it was "delighted with this notable step."

## WANTED: A NEW FAMILY

British twins whose 43-year-old mother is dying of cancer have received thousands of responses to their advertisement for a new family. The 10-year-olds, Lauren and Ashton Mills, placed the ad under *Situations Vacant* in the *Oxford Mail* with the approval of their mother, Tobi, a single parent. The twins said the ad is "a bit of fun" that made their mother laugh, but they stressed that their search is genuine.

## **Starr grills new witnesses**

**M**aria Lewinsky's mother spent two grueling days being questioned about her daughter's controversial relationship with U.S. President Bill Clinton. Her lawyer said Marcia Lewis was "overwhelmed and emotionally drained" after being grilled by special prosecutors. At one point, Lewis became so distraught that she had to be taken to the ground floor rooms where she was being questioned in order to hear to noise, Lewis was overcome with grief and made her to leave to take second commutes in which her daughter spoke about her alleged sexual liaison with Clinton. Led by independent counsel Kenneth Starr, the prosecutors are investigating whether Lewinsky's relationship with Clinton was sexual, and whether he urged her to lie about it. Clinton has adamantly denied the allegations.

Lewis's reaction to the lengthy questioning drew a harsh reaction from Lewinsky's lawyer, William Ginsburg. "I wonder if they have tortured Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Lewinsky quite enough yet," Ginsburg said before her accompanied Lewinsky back to Washington from Los Angeles. She is expected to testify before the grand jury as early as this week. The jury also heard from a retired Secret Service agent, Lewis Pits. He said he saw Lewinsky go into the Oval Office with a package for Clinton in his

**CONTENTS**

## Debating Diana's death

**F**ive months after her death in a Paris car crash, Diana, Princess of Wales, remains the subject of controversy. Last week, Mohammed Al Fayed, the wealthy, Egypt-

car-borne burglar, whose son Dodi died with the princess, claimed in a London newspaper that Diana spoke before she died in hospital, telling a nurse she wanted "all my possessions in Dodi's apartment to be given to my sister Sarah," and please tell her to take care of my boys. " He also said Dodi and Diana had



Loose with low layer: 'randomly grained'

1996 and stay for 40 minutes. However, Fox's lawyer said later that Fox did not know whether Clinton and Lewinsky were alone, because the Oval Office has several entrances.

plished to marry, and he believed the crash was a "conspiracy" by people who did not want them together. Meanwhile, a new book, *Death of a Princess: The Investigation*, suggested that doctors could have saved Diana if she had been taken to hospital sooner, an allegation rejected by her mother, Frances Shand, Kestel-

## A Chinese exile comes calling

**P**rominent Chinese dissident Wei Jingsheng started a three-city Canadian tour in Ottawa, where he met Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, Opposition leader Preston Manning and various MPs—but not Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. Although the PM

pleaded a busy schedule, Wei's organizers saw the move as a stab by a leader gone concerned with trade than by

man rights. Wei himself declined to make that accusation, but added: "He is not the only politician in the West to stand behind butchers. Trade is the normal thing to do, but I am against the Canadian government and of course cutting up to Communist rulers."

Wei, a key activist in the 1979 Democracy Wall poster campaign, was imprisoned for all but a few months of the en-

strong 20 years. In November, after President Jiang Zemin's American visit, he was suddenly released on medical grounds and put on a plane to the United States. At the time, he said he wanted to return soon to continue his fight for democracy. But last week, he said the harassment of his father and brother in Beijing makes him less anxious to go home in the short term. "Things there are as bad as they ever have been," he said.

# Canada's fire on ice

The country's athletes taste Olympic glory

At its heart, stripped of its smothering sponsorship and almost perpetual television coverage, the great festival of winter sport inspires just two fundamental elements of nature to run smoothly: Snow and ice. The pages of the Winter Olympics may change with the arrival of new sports, the half-pipe skateboarders' chatter of "McTwists" blending with skis' skunk-like traditional hiss of "backs." But the building blocks of any successful Winter Olympics remain constant. Those athletes who strap on skis must have snow to ski on. Those who skate need ice on which to race, perform a Salchow or take a delectation.

Shame, then, about the weather last week in Nagano, Nippon that just last month begged for a coat of snow, disappeared from view on the first morning of the XVII Winter Games' competition behind a whitout. Skisquipped days were marred by—alternately—fog, rain, whipping winds, thunder and lightning, and more blurring snow. I took six days for organizers to get the maroon men's downhill race in Hakuba under way. What was the point of the course was to ditch that 15 of 40 skiers did not finish the race—DNF in Olympic parlance—and a couple, after wild crashes, were lucky not to have been declared DQ. The rain and fog left Japanese fans at home, too. "I frequently eat there in the woods," said Norway's great Winter Dahlbø after winning the 30-km cross-country ski race for an astounding sixth career gold medal. "I wonder if this is why the Olympics."

Canadian expectations for medals on the hills and tracks also waned. Canada's coach, Magdalen Jean-Luc Boudreau, and Aze Marie Pelletier hit the hill on the second day to race weatherwise, venturing against a poster blue backdrop that they finished disappointingly out of the medals. Brave Brian Stastny, still hunting for Olympic gold nine years after senior Olympic crash in Austria, was writing a heroic sports chapter on Hakuba's dangerous downhill until it ran off its track with a raised gate near the bottom of the hill. The trouble skiers once again gleefully leapt up the rear of the pack. In the end, snowboarder Ron Rabaldus's tracklike nosecone with waxy skin under and its bumper skis were not the only last of the week. His gold-to-silver-to-gold-to-gold giant slalom run was all that saved Canada from a completely demoralized race on the snow (page 62).



Lecky Stein (left) and Auck with gold and silver, grace, power and a scudon spite of needs

It was with relief, then, that Canadians turned their attention to the sports of the Olympics that are run on ice. In the marbled environments of arenas, skating rinks and bobbing runs, Canadian athletes excelled. Weather cannot mar with a speed skater's stride, so Christine Lohrey-Dunn showed when she combined grace with power and swung her way to gold around the N White oval. Teammate Susan Auck started in her speed skating over (page 34). Caniers just had to read the ice on ice, and Canada's women's rink struck gold while the men took silver (page 38). There was silver, as well, for a brilliant Elise Stoffin in figure skating (page 36) and gold for Pierre Lueders and Dan MacEachern in bobsledding. And in spite of disappointment for the men speed skaters, who melted up out of the medals in the 1,000-m race, Canada finished the weekend with nine medals—and the hope that this week would set the country's Olympic team against the national best, 13 Winter medals bagged home from Lillehammer in 1994.

The ice turned these Games around for Canada. And by the beginning of the Games' second week, the country's athletes turned to what it had been expected to focus all along: hockey, the sport in which Canadians refuse to surrender the prize. The women's inaugural Olympic tournament followed its destiny to the predicted



Canada's Shane Dawson taking down Mikael Andersson of Sweden: the sport in which Canadians refuse to surrender the prize

Canada's first. But somehow lost in the North American media hype over the Canada-U.S. showdown in the men's tournament were the whispered warnings about the skill and strength of the talented Swedes, Russians, Czech and Finnish teams.

Grudge matches have that effect. The Canadian players came to Nagano making it clear they were out to avenge the 1996 World Cup loss to the Americans. "We consider our game," said Oshewski, Dats, center Joe Nieuwenhuis. "Canadian don't deal with losing in hockey very well. Expectations will be high when we play the United States. It's going to be physical and it's going to be fun."

But the Canada-U.S. hockey rivalry could end up a mere sideshow in these Games. It took only one period of Olympic hockey before the sight of a pack chasing from Swedish sticks to Swedish slick papered any revenge that this would be a two-hour chase for gold. The Swedes took the American's lynch step in the first game of the first round, beating them, with speed to the outside on the wider international mile and with higher elbows in the corners to win 4-2.

The next night, a dispirited Team Canada beat the Swedes 3-2 in a game that was fast and skilled as well as rough, bottling loss with visions of how wonderful the rest of the hockey tournament could be. Early media don't matter; Swedish center Peter Forsberg insisted, pointing out that "the real tournament begins in the quarter-finals"—

the three rounds of sudden-death hockey that will determine gold.

But the Americans were unhappy and embarrassed by their slow start, struggling, too, against a group of stout NHL veterans playing in Belarussian national colors in chortles, the players complained of troubles adjusting to the wider international ice. "I always felt about 10 feet short of where I wanted to be," said a disappointed Brett Hull after his terrible first performance. "It's tough to hit a guy." Added forward Tracy Armstrong, "when you've got to skate 30 feet to do it." Natural to be confused, perhaps. But the international rink is only 25 feet wider than the wider ponds where the NHLers train their skates. And since most of the Europeans play in the NHL, they too had to adjust to the wider rink, as Finnish forward Jan Kari took care to point out to Canadian coach Mike Crawford.

Speed and hockey sense, not a passport, are what determine who makes the bigger ice. "We're worked hard at the team aspects, but ultimately individual talent—even in a tremendous team system—counts to the forefront," said Wayne Gretzky after Canada dropped the last 5-0 in an Olympic debut. Crawford's system was straightforward. "We want to get people in the net, direct shots in the net and maybe get a few past them," he explained. He also demanded his players buy in to a system of short shots, which required some concessions from a few players: the captain Eric Lindros and defenseman Raymond



Bourque who drive on lots of ice time. Like the others wearing the Maple Leaf, Gosselin supported Crawford's blueprint, though he remained his assistance on the need to give the most creative players some leech. "You need a good team spirit," he said. "But one key guy can make a team special."

For Canada, that special guy was supposed to be Phil Karpis, who plays hockey in a stylish, wild way. But Karpis, a Canadian of Japanese descent, never made it to Japan. A concussion caused by Karpis's own head high in the air in an NHL game on Feb. 11 left Karpis down and off the squad—bitterly disappointed that he could not chase Olympic gold in his ancestral home. His teammates were visibly frustrated at first by news that Karpis would miss the Games, wondering about how they would replace his offensive skills. The Japanese cheered Karpis's loss, too. "That's who everybody in Japan wanted to see," said the American coach's Japanese translator.

**Russard (left) Japan's Shunmao disappointment for same and a triumph finish for a local hero**

## BOBSLEIGH GOLD—AT LAST

It is a sport where a hundredth of a second can seem like an eternity, a blink of an eye that can separate glory from defeat. But when Canada's Flame Lueders and Italy's Giancarlo Huber—two of the dominant figures in the world of two-man bobsleigh—met in Nagano last week, the margin of victory ended up even smaller than a split second. In fact, it was nothing at all. After two days of competition and four heats, Italy 1 and Canada 1 ended up with exactly the same cumulative time—3:37.24. For the first time ever, two teams shared the gold medal in bobsleigh, and they did it with a finish that was surely one of the most remarkable in Olympic history. "This is unbelievable," said Lueders after the final, thrilling heat. "This is what every athlete dreams about."

The Olympic two-man bobsleigh had stepped up as a classic confrontation between two titans of the sport—and it did not disappoint. Huber, 32, who won bronze at Lillehammer in 1994, is one of bobsleigh's most respected drivers, renowned for his finesse in handling tight curves at speeds passing 130 km/h. Lueders, mean-

while, is at 27 one of the sport's young hawks, and many observers pegged the Edmonton native as an odds-on favorite to end Europe's 62-year supremacy in the Olympic two-man. The reigning World Cup champion, Lueders is known less for his sleek-finding skills than for his explosive starts. In the crucial first 50 m of the race, when teams push the 150-kg sleds to speeds of up to 93 km/h, his combination of power and form have proven key to his dominance at World Cup competition in recent years. But Huber has always been close. At the World Cup finals at St. Moritz in January, the Italian cruised to victory in the individual competition, beating the field by almost four-tenths of a second. Lueders, meanwhile, put in his customary lightning-fast starts, but an error on the track in the first heat relegated him to a disappointing sixth-place finish. Still, it was good enough to spare the overall title—barring Lueders finished the season with 200 points, Huber last 196.

On the 1,360-m run at Mount Kusatsu near Nagano, Lueders and Huber quickly cut themselves apart from the other competitors. Navigating the twists and turns of the Spiral with consummate skill, Huber and bikerunner Antonio Tarantola established a lead-day lead Lueders and his bikerunner, Charlottetown-born Dave MacEachern,

was slugged for his last average play in that historic World Cup loss, and there was grumbling from that self-proclaimed Canadian court of public opinion over his selection as Team Canada captain.

On the basis of his first two games, Canadian fans need not worry. Lueders was at his cranking, scorching best. "He was our most physical forward," said Crawford of Lueders after Game 1, before the captains went out in Game 2 and body-checked four Swedish on one first period high alone. "This play was exactly what we needed." If Lueders stays on his game, the Olympics should mark a changing of the guard in Canadian hockey, something teammate Brendan Shanahan called for last week. It was true to stay depending on Gosselin and Co. in his hometown, he said. "It's time for the next generation of Canadian hockey players to stand up."

Anticipation, Nagano's center-ice Wm Wm arena heard the first generation of Olympic women hockey players. The Olympic model competition tied unconvincingly here just how much women's hockey remains a North American specialty. Teams like China and Japan landed off Canada by building a wall around their net, aiming slow to keep the shot down. Canadian coach Shanahan Miller received a low ovation when he insisted on describing how she devised a plan to beat the Japanese. "25 km/h-darting formation"—even though the Japanese were outshooting 6-5 and beat out a skate across the Canadian blue line. Miller also lauded the starting thesis of the pre-game speech, exhorting her team "to light their own Olympic flame," before

the opening game against Japan. The Japanese (who led 15-6 Thru really came apart, explained the coach) Japanese coach later, when the teams changed ends for the second period and his players had further to skate to get to the bench line changes.

Japanese fans seemed to like their first taste of top-flight hockey, however. From the screaming chant of "Pao! Pao!" before each period, to a sort of Japanese Blues and Satine live show on the big screen at intermission, the locals clearly enjoyed the game. One day in the bowels of the M Wane speed-skating arena, a group of Japanese huddled around a TV set to watch their men's goalie Dorey Lano stone the Italian team with spectacular ease. "Would somebody please tell those people that there's some great skating going on at a moment," said an incredulous Dutch fan.

The Japanese did more subtle work, playing as M Wane crowd that included Crown Prince Naruhiko and their wives collectively with a compact, 22-cylinder ball named Toyoko Shiroto (painted his way to gold in the men's 500-m race). In doing so, Shiroto spelled an otherwise gloomy Canadian day, where his men placed second, third, fourth and fifth. "Oh, we know all about your speed skating," said Hoff von Weichenberg as he retired a glass after the race with flowers of oversized Dutch lilies at Shiroto House. "Canada is becoming a nation for speed skating."

At least the triumphs of the skaters—as well as the curlers, Sledge and Lueders—had people thinking about Canadian performance

## There are high hopes for more medals ahead



again, rather than the desperate stragglers that dominated the early days of the Games. Until the traces of confusion in bobsleigh, some were finally ruled irrelevant. Canadian Olympic officials worried Nagano might be remembered for nothing but scandal. Anticipation in thinking that drug problems started and stopped with steroids, they sometimes recalled like the belated efforts of *Rebel Without* when protesting they did not understand how marijuana worked (though they knew enough to remind everyone that pot is not a performance-enhancing drug).

Richard's official design for the medal. He became a television for the Canadian team, cheered by other Canadian athletes in the Village. Inspired to show up at hockey games and at Elin's final slide, some were of the expected medals began to trickle in, with high hopes for more ahead in women's hockey. From the long and short-track speed skating. And, of course, men's hockey. "There's a lot of players who don't still get serious before a game," said Gosselin. "We'll play each game like a Stanley Cup Game 7." Imagine: a whole tournament of Game 7s, played on a big surface, that huge canvas for the best players in the world to work on. How sweet to be back on the ice.

MacEachern (left), Lueders, "let every athlete dreams about" 30, were in hell pursuit, and they used their quick off-the-track skate to full advantage. On Day 1, Lueders's Canada 1 shattered the track record with a first-heat start of 4:59 seconds, and then battered that in the next heat with a 4:48. The result was the fastest run of the day, enough to place Lueders four-hundredths of a second behind the Italians. On Day 2, the Canadians edged even closer, coming to within 0.03 seconds of Huber's team after the third heat. And in the

top of the hill before the fourth and final run, Lueders joked to the Italians that they might end up in a tie. That prediction, incredibly, came true when Italy 1 posted a final run of 54.2 seconds, preceding three-hundredths behind Lueders and MacEachern's time.

The Italians and the Canadians both had career-higher times of three minutes 37.24 seconds—more than six tenths of a second ahead of Germany's Christoph Langen, who won bronze. Meanwhile, 35-year-old Chris Long, a 14-year veteran of the Canadian bobsleigh team who planned to retire after Nagano, stood in seventh place after Day 1. But Long, along with bikerunner Jack Pyc, faltered in the last two heats, eventually finishing 12th.

Still, Lueders and MacEachern's victory at Nagano was a watershed for the Canadian team—the first gold in a bobsleigh event since 1964, when Victor Elmer played the two-man team to a win at Innsbruck. "This is something our program has been doing for 34 years," Lueders said. "There's been a lot of heartbreak for Canadian bobsleiders over the years." On the slopes of Mount Kusatsu, though, the heartbreak finally came to an end—and the celebrations could begin.

FOR CHOLEY



LeMay Dean celebrating victory at the M-Wave. In right: Night training at the world-class Oval in Calgary.

## High-speed dream team

BY JAMES DEACON

Tamara Oshtuka had just finished posting the fastest time of the day at the M-Wave in Nagano, but as she passed by stands full of adoring fans, she held her finger to her lips, asking for quiet. Trying to direct the crowd's attention to the featured race of the day, Oshtuka pointed back towards the start line, where Canada's Catriona LeMay Doan and Sanaa Auch were getting set for the last pairing of the two-day sprint final. The audience responded and, for a second, there was quiet inside the cavernous M-Wave, all eyes on the two women in red and black awaiting the gun. They didn't disappoint. Pitted against one another because they were the top skaters in the previous day's heats, LeMay Doan and Auch blasted through the first 200 m on their way to the fastest 500-m pairing ever coached in Olympic women's competition. LeMay Doan crossed first, beating Auch by a mere three-tenths of a second. "What a great race," a breathless but thrilled LeMay Doan said afterward. "Susan really pushed me."

For the Canadians who were lucky enough to be there, the colors of Valentin's Day will from here on be gold and silver

LeMay Doan and Auch came into the race saddled with huge expectations—they finished the World Cup season ranked first and second, respectively, in the 500 m. "I felt really nervous," said Auch, who also captured silver at the Lillehammer Games in 1994. "But I had done well under pressure before, and that gave me confidence." Auch jumped into an early lead and forced LeMay Doan into overdrive. "I had to tell myself that I was the strongest skater out there," LeMay Doan said, "and trust that I could make up the ground on the back stretch."

What a week at the races, and what a show of strength from what has suddenly become the dominant team on the Canadian Winter Olympics roster. No matter how well they do, the men's and women's hockey teams can muster only two medals in five days; the long-track speed-skating team grabbed one gold, two silver and a bronze, and there were prospects for more this week. LeMay Doan holds the world record in the women's 1,000 m and was entered in the 1,500. Among the short-track skaters, sprinters Isabelle Charest and Marc Goggin are contenders in four events. Watching the men's 500 at the M-Wave, 1994 double-olier medalist Natsihari Lambert was already looking ahead to this week's short-track competition. "Isabelle and Marc are both skating really well," says Lambert, who was sidelined last fall with

a broken ankle. "I think we could get three medals in short track." Jeremy Wotherspoon and Kevin Overland started off early last week by capturing silver and bronze in a thrilling 500-m men's long-track competition, won by local hero Hiroyasu Shimizu. The male Canadians, Silem Buschard and Patrick Beaudet (no relation), finished right behind Overland, giving Canada four of the top five spots. But in the 1,000 m on Sunday, Wotherspoon, a tall, slender 21-year-old from Red Deer, Alta., who holds the world record in the event, had a disappointing skate and the Canadians finished out of the medals.

Despite the grim forecast and cold drizzle in Nagano, it was all spectators and light inside the spectacular M-Wave. There were the usual passionate rivalries among the more than 10,000 who roared the evil—the stands at a speed-skating competition are

Calgary fans as they could coordinate coaching the sprinters through Nagano, Derrick, 30, has an ongoing romance, and even in the minutes before the gold-medal race, he had the skaters loose and laughing. He says it helps both skaters to be able to train regularly with their latest competition. And before taking their stations at the starting line, the two skaters walked each other back. "I was pretty happy to see her win," Auch said, "to see her arms raised when she crossed the line."

That says the culture of the sport. There is apparent camaraderie and respect among competitors, whatever their country. At the post-race ceremony after the men's 500, Overland praised the diminutive Shimizu who had won out over Wotherspoon and himself. "He has the best technique of any of the sprinters," Overland said, adding, "I am proud to be on the podium with him."

Thanks to their success in the past two World Cup seasons, LeMay Doan, Auch and Wotherspoon were well-known in the speed-skating world, especially in the sport's European hot beds—Bislett, Norway and Germany. "Canada always had one or two good skaters," says Mette Sagge, who covers the sport for the Norwegian newspaper *Aftenposten*. "But now it is a full team, and Canada is becoming one of the big speed-skating countries." Dan Jensen, the first American sprinter who retired after the 1994 Games, has watched the Canadians' rise from his perch as a CBS commentator. "They have gained tremendous respect as a team," he says. "Canada does not have many distance skaters, but its sprinters are really deep."

The revolutionary chop skate, with its winged toe, has enabled all competitors to go faster. But at Calgary's Olympic Oval, a legacy of the 1980 Games, that is the biggest reason for the Canadians' remarkable rise. It is the fastest ice in the world, which helps skaters learn to cope with higher speeds. And it is open 10 months a year, far more than most European tracks. The Whang Shup arena built for the Lillehammer Games is open only 60 days a year because of the high cost of maintaining the ice. At Nagano's Holland House, a low-restaurant near the M-Wave that provides a little home cooling for maddened Dutch fans, Egbert Baerten says his 15-year-old son, Jan, is on the Dutch junior team and wants to attend school in Calgary so he can train at the Olympic Oval. "Everyone wants to go to Canada," Baerten says.

Watching the medal bonanza last week, Gaston Boucher wondered what might have been. He was Canada's hero at the Sarajevo Games in 1984, winning two golds and a bronze. But at the time there was no indoor oval—he had to train in Europe. And there were no major trials in his country. "If I had a Canadian now, I can earn \$100,000 a season from endorsements and international victories. For skating, that's a lot of money," says Boucher, who works for Bauer, the skate manufacturer. "When the World Cup was first started [in the mid-1980s], I won a race in Switzerland and received 50 francs."

The skaters don't expect their Nagano success to spur construction of ovals in every neighborhood, but they hope their medals have some impact. "It'll be nice to see kids taking up skating at clubs next year," says Auch. LeMay Doan wasn't thinking about next year—she had some immediate concerns. "I want to relax a bit," she said, breathing her way through a gauntlet of reporters. "Then I'll be fine to get ready for the next race." □



## Canadian skaters grab a fistful of medals at the spectacular M-Wave

nothing if not trials. The Dutch in their seven-seamer outfits, the Japanese in blue-and-white, Germans, Poles and clumps of red-and-white Canada waved flags, blew horns, sang songs and cheered their racers. But everyone applauded good performances, no matter the skater's nationality, and LeMay Doan crossed the finish line to a thunderous ovation that followed her around the oval as she flailed her willow-vent male. More personally, she was congratulated while coasting down the backstretch by her husband, Bert, a rodeo bull rider who drives the Zamboni at the Calgary Oval.

LeMay Doan and Auch are each other's toughest rivals, but it is a friendly rivalry. They credit sprint coach Derrick Auch-Susan's brother—with practicing a team ethic that has eased whatever tensions have arisen. A lawyer who put off joining a

# Profile in courage



## A painful leg injury cannot keep Elvis Stojko from skating to silver

BY JAMES DEACON

**I**f there's nothing full, the kind of thing that often happens to figure skaters in practice or competitions. But in hindsight, it was so very Elvis-like. In the warm-up prior to the Olympic men's free skate in Nagano, with his five nearest competitors on the ice at the same time, Elvis Stojko, 25, skated the length of the ice and just missed landing the quadruple toe loop that is the key element in his long program. The three-time world champion slid to a stop by the end boards, but all seemed well—he even pulled with reluctant photographers before getting up, brushing himself off, and skating away to practice another element in his routine.

The next sign that something was wrong came when Stojko, the last of 34 competitors for the night, began to perform his routine. Skating to music from the movie sound track *The Ghost and the Darkness*, he opened with a solid triple Lutz and then, right where he had failed earlier, completed only three revolutions of his planned quad. He landed it, along with seven other triple jumps, but the abbreviated quad was

**The performance**  
the aftermath with coach Leigh and choreographer Alvin Krieger secret

For a month, he had been running a heavily pulled groin muscle on his right leg. But he decided to skate through the pain in Nagano, and, on only one good leg, he stayed on his feet, landed triple Lutzs and, astonishingly, won the silver medal against the toughest men's field ever assembled. "If there was a medal for bravery," his coach, Doug Leigh, said afterward, "it'd be to him alone."

So much for the showman at center ice. The men's final was supposed to be a battle between the classical style of the Russians and the explosive athletes of the U.S. Instead, like Kurt Browning, who went to the 1992 Winter Games as the defending world champion but was killed by a back ailment, Stojko was his best shot at Olympic gold.

because of injury. The Richmond Hill, Ont., native pulled the muscle last month while practicing for the Canadian championships, and despite almost daily treatment sessions and a vastly reduced training schedule, he could not escape the pain. He and Leigh decided not to reveal the condition—"It doesn't make it feel any better to tell the world about it," Leigh explained. The skater may have had another reason for discretion: he did not want to give the judges any extra reason for marking him lower than his Russian rivals, so he gave late throughout his career. Whatever his motives, he was not saying late Saturday night immediately after the medal ceremony, for which he hobbled out to the podium in running shoes. Stojko was taken to hospital for tests on the leg and was unavailable to reporters.

Ultimately, Stojko had to endure a worse pain than his pulled groin—a cancer drug that was unable to give him his best possible performance when it caused the most. It made art have rusted, of course. Kalks was overworldly, not so much for his trademark flare but rather for the ease with which he landed every element in his exceedingly difficult routine, set to Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. And just as he had two nights before in the short program, the 26-year-old from Moscow had raised the bar virtually beyond reach. "The job delivered the performance of his life," observed Paul Martin, the former Canadian pair champion turned coach and broadcaster. "Anyone in the building who knew anything about skating knew that Kalks was going to be almost impossible to catch." The winner himself said he could not be certain until his main opponent had finally skated. "I really, really respect him as a great sportsman," Kalks said of Stojko. "That's what I respected in him after he skated."

It was a night full of surprises. Russia's Alexei Yagudin, gripped by the energy-sapping cold that has swept through the foreign legions in Nagano, fell while attempting a quad for loop and a subsequent triple Axel. And Americans Todd Eldredge missed several times from the start, doubling two planned triple jumps and singing a key triple Axel. That left room at the top for the charismatic Frenchman, Philippe Candeloro, who came out dressed like *Mr. D* after rain and skated to the sound track of *The Three Musketeers*. Candeloro's routine was as much theater as sport—his footwork sequence evoked a swordfighting scene from the movie. But he landed every jump and gave the judges no choice but to hoist him above Yagudin and Eldredge in fourth place, which was the most unexpected event of all.

The drama actually began two nights earlier in the short program. Kalks—drawn in a contest third with what appeared to be instant wings—set a nearly impossible standard for the field. He combined impenetrable required elements—starting an effortless triple Axel triple toe loop combination—with daring, original spins. Four skaters later, Yagudin, just 27 and seemingly oblivious to the throat-lightening pressure in the arena, glided to center ice, smiling and waving to the audience, and proceeded to nail everything in his program. The judges gave him second place to Kalks, but he was quickly overtaken by Eldredge, the smooth American who made the most of pedestrian choreography to his playful, swishing back music.

Stojko, who skated third here, knew there was no room for error. After being called to center ice to begin his short program, he appeared to take more time than usual setting it up—he later confided it was the most pressure he had ever felt. Once started, however, he

gained momentum until finishing with a spin sequence that won him third place. The judges awarded him second place: "It felt great, considering the situation," he said. "I don't think people understand how much pressure there was on them."

After meeting with the media and changing into his team sweat, Stojko came back from the dressing room that night to discover Scott Hamilton, the 1984 Olympic champion in the ladies' event. The American, now a professional skater and TV commentator with CBS, grabbed Stojko and gave him a bear hug. "That was just incredible," said Stojko. "The further I was from my own Olympic experience, the more I appreciate what you just did. I was tied in knots, and I was just watching."

It wasn't the kind of encouragement that Stojko needed. His groin was hurting badly and physiotherapy was not doing much to relieve the discomfort. As one guess, he even considered taking a steroid already offered by the Nagano family bus where his mother was staying. The pain included acute, at times, at other times, but while Stojko was desperate for help, he was not about to take something that might later show up on Olympic dope tests. "We made it through the short program," Leigh said, "and he tried to get back over the last 48 hours. He just ran out of it."

The week was not much kinder to the other Canadian figure skaters in Nagano. Stojko's Mariposa Club teammate, Jeffrey Langford of Smith's Falls, Ont., fell attempting his required combination jump in the short program but did well in the free skate to finish in 12th place. "That's more like when he came here," said coach, Michelle Leigh, "and after the 26-year-old came off the ice." "He should be a top 10 skater, and he showed that out there tonight." Canada's two pairs, top-ranked Kristy Sargeant and Kim Wirtz, and Marie-Claude Savard-Gagnon and Luc Beaudet, finished 12th and 16th—well below both skaters' goals.

More disturbing was the experience of ice dancers Shae-Lynn Bourne and Victor Kraatz. Bourne, co-medalist at the last two world championships, they started the season hoping to challenge the favored Russians, Pasha Grishchuk and Yegorov Plavov. Instead, intrepid observers contend, the ice dancers have been victims of so-called knee judging—in which skaters are slowed to boost Russian, French and Italian teams while denying others, including Bourne and Kraatz. International skating officials have been unable to curb the use of arthroplasty, and, as a result, Bourne and Kraatz were left with having to skate in a winter season of their popular



Shipping up to the podium inside Kalks: the Russian had set a virtually uncatchable standard

Revelant free skate to make it on the podium. The dancer's complaint, however, are nothing compared with Stojko's. The silver medalist at Lillehammer in 1994 was no slacker to finally doing what no Canadian had ever done—win the Olympic men's figure skating gold medal. Still, it says so much about Stojko that he went to Nagano at all. Defending Olympic champion Alexei Urmanov of Russia suffered the same injury several months ago and withdrew from his own national championship as well as the Games. Wirtz, who won the men's short program, says that Canadian skaters, male and female, all have the endurance. "I do not know how he did what he just did," Wirtz said. "He is incredibly strong." Leigh, who has coached Stojko since he was a teenager, was not surprised. "The way Elvis's mind works," Leigh said, "he can overcome anything." As a result, Stojko's pain has a silver lining. □



A RICKY BARKER, GERTIE ECKERT, MIKE MCKUSKER and SANDRA SCHREINER: "to play with your best friends is probably the best feeling in the world"

# Close, but no sweep

BY BRUCE WALLACE

**D**ifferent graders, different styles. A mixed Canadian men's curling team slayed by Toronto's iconic Mike Harris whistled their way through the week and it all stopped working for them as they did not against Switzerland and they had to settle for silver. Sandra Schreiner's Saskatchewan rink, on the other hand, put on a more emotional display of curling, diving into hugs and tears after a tense last rock scuffle was over Britain before enjoying a slightly easier slide to gold in the final against Denmark. If silver opened an erasable curtain, the women had come to Naganu trembled by the pressure to win. "When you win, you feel elation and gratitude," said first second Joan McKusker. "And underneath it all, there's a relief, a feeling of 'Thank God the weight is off!'"

Despite the pressure to bring home double gold, both teams had counted confidently through the round robin phase, each losing only once. The amalgam of playing for curling's first official Olympic medals—"I had to tell them to calm down," Harris said of his normally cold-blooded team's shaky performance in the early ends of Game 1—turned to cool confidence as they started mending their shots and the competition whirled through the week. "Let's hope they play as tough tonight," Harris told second Colin Mitchell before the round robin game against Sweden, complaining that he had not faced enough difficulty with



aficionados. "I need to throw some rocks that have an impact."

But as the week, the Harris team enjoyed themselves—on and off the ice. The Toronto rink took pride in what they regarded as a soul-mate relationship with the Canadian men's boarders, a bond forged when they first met during pre-Olympic preparations in Calgary on Feb. 1, and reinvigorated when they whistled it up together under the stands of Nagano's Olympic stadium before the opening ceremonies. "We're both rebels, we both like to party," said George McKusker, the talented lead, explaining how the representatives of the sport with the beer belly image had it off with the disciples of Gode-fred.

So much so they had to try the powder themselves. When the Harris rink spotted a snowboarder hill helping the curlers' Olympic Village—"No snow, you only like an escalator to the top," laughed Mitchell—the resulting tumble left scum on the second's face that lasted through the tournament. Mitchell's father, Bill,

was so upset with the curlers' office experimentation on the eve of curling's big Olympic moment that he placed in his disapproval from Pickering, Ont., just east of Toronto, before flying to Nagano to watch the final. But the personable Mitchell remained unfazed, and his mother, Cathy, joked more about her Olympic-old son's funky eating habits than his face plant on the ice. "Bill Collins told me Japanese food?" she asked Harris one night at dinner in a Tokyo

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steals restaurant, where the Japanese staff were cowboy hats and the menu appeared to be the train's steak and pasta tastes. "Yeah," Harris replied seriously between bites. "Rice."

Such pointless answers were the hallmark of these Canadian cautions and the family members who made up their entire entourage. They were friendly, polite, can-I-buy-ya-beer Canadians, nice and comfy with jeans and beer and lower complaining that there was not among the meek Olympic events. "If you can't get up for the Olympics, then something's wrong," said McCartney, who spoke for the women and men alike in disavowing concerns at the lack of media attention. "The curling here has been great."

Whether or not they understood how good the level was, the Japanese team who did arrive made a heck of a racket cheering their national teams on. The Japanese (drumming and brass) were described as the coldest they had ever played in and that Joe Herber waiting for a Canadian pipe and drum band to answer back (and may have kept some of the otherwise starchy Japanese journalists awake). But no other Canadian athletes came to watch. Curling was held in Kamusawa, a not-great mountain resort but one 60 km away from the action in Nagano. The audience that snaked the sport or showed up were at a loss with its jargon. The Canadian's never complained, always complied. "Oh, you across the double takeout," a prelude but potent Schumaker cried out at last when a U.S. reporter asked about her successful "howling-like split."



don't train, either," he says. "They just sit and party. Curling requires the same kind of skills as golf," Mitchell adds emphatically. "So I think we are athletes."

But while much was made of the CBS dismissal, the network's real reason for skipping the sport may have had more to do with the particular makeup of the American men's team. Skip Tim Somerville has a criminal record for sexual assault and his team's words on the sidelines the curling public is watched only by its members' antagonism towards one another—hardly the sort of heartwarming profile made for prime time. U.S. team officials protest and they didn't know what worried them more: losing badly in anonymity or winning and getting exposure. Similarly, the British team ("Let's face it, I'm in curling because I was rubbish at football," explained lead Bruce Nisbet) fell back on foul language for motivation when shot-making failed. Red-corded CBC broadcasters finally removed the team's body microphones.

Canadian curling, by contrast, was a G-rated family affair. The wives and girlfriends of the Harris team joked about sharing hotel rooms with the parents of their mates. And all four members of Schumaker's team have infants under age 3 who remained in Canada, a separation that took an emotional toll. On the first day of competition, Schumaker was asked about the stress of combining competitive curling with motherhood, and responded firmly that she has "a beautiful daughter, and that's the most important thing." She then stepped off to meet the Canadian on business, leaving his team when she saw aap three-

## They were friendly, polite, can-I-buy-ya-beer Canadians

At least he showed up. CBS television stayed away entirely, as one network insider vowed that it would not broadcast "a culture" of the sport to the American audience. That was a blow since curling does poorly in the U.S. as a popularity—especially in the United States, where curling competitions are confined mostly to Minnesota and Wisconsin—if it is to retain its Olympic status after the 2002 Games in Salt Lake City. Next year, the International Olympic Committee will decide whether the sport is in the Games to stay, and curling officials spent the week shuttling IOC members like Britain's Prince Anne through the rink, explaining the game's few points, placing last-track strategy the way hockey markets body checks.

It was a tough job, when so much of what coverage there was left an awkward, skeptical tone, one really a sport it asked. Are these shuffleboarders really athletes? "Curlers argue it amongst themselves, too," says Mitchell, a musician, lit planner who used anti-inflammatory medicine on an injured left knee in order to compete (thereby demonstrating one requirement of an athlete: be played hurt). "There are a lot of curlers who don't think we're athletes, a lot of curlers who don't think we should be in the Olympic Games. Their argument is that we don't train. But shuffleboarders

**News in the house: the international media coverage was skeptical—is it really a sport?**

The women made some of those sacrifices because, as Schumaker said, "It's all for the good of our sport." Whether the curlers consumed the Olympic movement of its merits seemed to be zero, but what transpired in Kamusawa last week was a wonderful display of how sport can knit families and communities together. An emotional headline world champion David Norbury told Schumaker after their game that Nagano marked the first time her parents in Norway had ever seen her play on television. And the TV audiences in Canada will almost certainly be high on usual. "Back in Regina there are tons of good teams and I don't know why we've been chosen to do this," said Schumaker after her final win. Then she talked about how close she felt to her teammates. Like sisters, she said. "And to play with your best friends is probably the best feeling in the world." □



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**ERICSSON**



# Counter culture hero

**O** Canada! Olympic gold gone to hell! What was could rest the sign of Canadian snowboarder Ross (Rebagliati), the first man in Olympic history to have gold medal stripped because of evidence of marijuana use? But while the headline writers were having a field day, Rebagliati was looking the other way, laughing easily. Last Thursday, while an appeal board reviewed the International Olympic Committee's decision to disqualify him, the 26-year-old native of Whistler, B.C., sat in a police interrogation room answering questions about his alleged drug use. He was there for seven hours—long enough for the board to overturn the IOC ruling. And when he emerged from the police station—his gold medal, which he had kept in his pants pocket all week, finally hanging around his neck—he looked both shaken and overjoyed. “It has,” he said, “been quite a ride.”

Spokes like a true snowboarder: When the IOC established Court of Arbitration for Sport cleared Rebagliati's victory, the Canadian fans—preserving its racial and its usage—breathed a collective sigh of relief. The Rebagliati affair highlighted the inconsistencies in the modern world of Olympic drug testing. And in Canada, it revealed a continuing political and social ambivalence on the issue of marijuana—use that is officially tolerated, but often tolerated in practice.

Perhaps it is no surprise that the unusual Olympic year of snowboarding should be tainted by allegations of this drug: the sport is as close to counterculture as the Games have ever dared, full of young, rebellious-looking, blue-haired hair and nose piercings. Rebagliati's defiance, after a positive analysis of his urine found 17.8 micrograms of THC—the hallucinogenic element in marijuana—per millilitre, did little to dispel that stereotype. Yes, he said, he had inhaled, but it was after his first race. Rebagliati said he had not smoked marijuana since last April, but he had

been exposed to it socially while staying goodby to friends in Whistler on Jan. 31.

Against the judgment of some officials, the Canadian Olympic Association backed up that claim, and more fully specified the IOC decision: A guy tripped at a news conference, when COA head Carol Anne Lockhart submitted Rebagliati's positive THC test to “the amount of blood drawn was an environment where he is exposed to marijuana users,” reporters guffawed. But according to Dr. Andrew Pepp, the Ottawa-based chairman of the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport and the man whose COA officials called to back up their appeal, the secondhand smoke exposure is at a low level. Still, it's clear in the late 1980s, he says, suggest that levels comparable to those found in Rebagliati's urine could not be caused by secondhand smoke. But those statistics, Pepp notes, used samples that had THC levels of 3.5 per cent—and today's pot, especially in British Columbia, can have more than 30 per cent THC. “What is the effect on someone exposed to a regular dose to high-potency marijuana smoke?” he asks. “That's an interesting question.”

Another question is whether the whole affair could have been avoided. Rebagliati was tested twice, once in the fall and in December. Both times, the tests found THC, although below the 15-microgram threshold. Last week, Rebagliati openly wondered why Canadian authorities did not tell him about those results until after he tested positive in Vancouver. If he had known, he says, he could have avoided the notorious secondhand smoke



From right, the snowboarder in action, showing off his medals, helping the police, getting away questions



## Ross Rebagliati's wild ride through the strange world of Olympic drug testing

In the end, his defence did not matter. The crux of the court of arbitration's decision was that the IOC does not have the right to strip a snowboarder of a medal based on a positive marijuana test. Under Olympic rules, marijuana is banned only if the sport's governing body—in this case, the Federation internationale de ski—specifically says it is. But the court of arbitration found that the FIS had never done so in giant-slalom snowboarding. In other words, a snowboarder can be high on his nose on the hill, and still not be subject to sanctions.

Canadian officials welcomed the decision but were careful not to seem so proud. “My reaction, like a lot of Canadians,” was very positive,” said Heritage Minister Sheila Copps in Ottawa. But she added: “This is not a test of character or a test of morality; this is a test of performance-enhancing drugs.” Prime Minister Jean Chrétien phoned Rebagliati to express his “100-per cent support”—after the appeals panel had already ruled. And while some—tackling the snowboarder's father, Mark—said the officer should make the government rethink the criminalization of marijuana, Solicitor General Andy Scott responded: “I don't think that's a discussion

that should be taking place in the context of this particular event.”

Let them, meanwhile, suggested that Rebagliati could emerge from his ordeal as a drug awareness spokesman—“this is a real opportunity for Ross to show leadership.” But in his postscript news conference, the snowboarder pointedly said: “I'm not going to change my lifestyle—I don't care what you think about that. My friends and I will stand up behind them.” Then he added: “I might have to wear a cap in public, whatever.”

In a unique way, he has become both a sports and counterculture hero. And he has a medal on his back in Vancouver: Sheila Rebagliati hangs a Canadian flag on her front door after her grandson shared with some of the appeal board's decision. Over the years, the chest of drawers in her dining room has become the repository for all his medals and awards. Will he leave his gold with her this time? “Probably not,” she laughs. “I guess he'll put it in a safety deposit box.”

**JOE CHILKOT** with **BRUCE WALLACE** in *Vancouver*; **KAREN DAVENPORT** in *Ottawa*; **DAPHNE MORRISSEAU** in *Toronto* and **KENNY GUNTER** in *Vancouver*

## PARTY-TOWN PROUD

**I**t was snowing in Whistler, B.C., on the morning Ross Rebagliati was told he could keep his Olympic gold medal. The snow was thick and beautiful, a great carpet for boarding, and the white noise and merriment of it all the mood of the day, missing all the palpable anxiety in Rebagliati's home town. For residents of this ski resort, 120 km north of Vancouver, anticipating the decision of the independent sports tribunal “was like sitting in a hospital waiting room,” said Whistler Mayor Hugh O'Reilly. His sentiments were echoed by those preparing to spend their day on the slopes. “There is a real feeling of relief,” said snowboarder Frank Frenchie, having a coffee before heading to the gondola up Whistler Mountain. “Everyone here thought what the IOC did was a joke.” Frenchie's view was typical in the town of 10,000 that had loudly derided the International Olympic Committee's decision to strip Rebagliati of his medal because of marijuana traces in his urine. Not only is the town bordering a local hotel, but marijuana is ubiquitous in Whistler, as it is in a lot of lifestyle towns—using pot or

being around people who do it is no big deal. “Maybe I'm changed the world a little bit,” said Rebagliati's close friend Graham Turner. “Maybe he helped point out how liberal we've become on the issue.” Whistler, after all, is “a place that attracts party animals,” as Turner puts it. There is a lot of money in the sport-fishing-construction-tourism—hotels in peak season can cost well over \$200 a night. Condo—often second residences for skiers from Vancouver or abroad—sell for \$280,000 on average. The town's population has doubled since 1980. Half the residents are between 20 and 34 years old, many of them kids on working holidays from Australia, Japan and other parts of Canada. They come to ski, snowboard, drink, smoke dope and find jobs to support their recreation. In fact, so much money is spent on fun that Turner, who operates a store devoted to snowboarding, keeps dozens of boxes of Kraft Dinner in front of the cash register, selling them for 59 cents. “The kids here need to eat,” he says.

But are these kids really forgoing love to spend their money on water sports, booze and dope? And is marijuana really a problem? “It's just not an issue,” O'Reilly says. “They don't do drugs. They do Rebagliati's confusion that secondhand smoke from a Whistler



party may have accounted for his positive test. “This is not just a snowboarding thing, it's a ski thing, it's a Whistler thing,” said Kim Achenbach, who runs a local snowboarding school. “Once if you don't smoke, you go to a party here and it's pretty much all you're breathing.” In fact, British Columbians in general display a tolerant attitude towards pot smoking. Vancouver is home to the Cannabis Café, a restaurant that uses hemp in its recipes, and Hemp B.C., an in-your-face organization that wants marijuana legalized. An Angus Reid poll taken last November revealed that 63 per cent of B.C. residents believed smoking pot should be legalized, compared with 51 per cent in the rest of Canada. And the country as a whole has become more liberal: A 1997 Reid poll showed that only 50 per

cent of Canadians favored decriminalization.

But Rebagliati's friends are convinced he did stop smoking marijuana last April, as he told IOC officials—he would not have risked his Olympic chances. “Ross is an awesome guy,” says Achenbach. “He worked so hard to get where he is.” Achenbach is concerned that the negative publicity could hurt snowboarding just as the sport has begun to get some respect. “All everyone is going to be saying now is that everyone who snowboards does drugs,” he says. “It's so depressing.” But Turner figures the threat of Rebagliati losing his medal could have in upside: “Maybe some kids might leave a thing or two, that if you're going to hang around people who do this stuff and you want to be an athlete, maybe you should think about it.” In Whistler, the good-time town, such cautionary advice seems likely to go up in smoke.

**JENNIFER HUNTER** in *Whistler*

# Faster, Higher, Richer

For advertisers, the Olympic Games are more golden than ever



The CBC's biggest sponsors are encouraged to give more this money

BY JOHN SCHOFIELD

**M**ichael Budman, the hip, heavily bearded cofounder of Roots Canada Ltd., is beaming with patriotic fervor. Live on the line from the cramped Kokoski 21 hotel in Nagano, Japan, Budman has just returned from watching Roots poster boy Elias Koteas place second after an impressive performance in the first round of the men's figure-skating competition. As it happens, Roots, the official outfitter to Canada's 200-winter Olympic team, is not doing too badly either. "Can tell you that hangs down, Canada has won the gold medal for clothing," the Detroit-born Budman trumpets. The team's red and blue cloth and tie dye "jockey-pants" are the toast of the town, he says. And the Roots logo—which is larger than the word "Nagano" on the athletes' suits—is flashing across TV screens the world over. "I think that any true fan can put yourself on a grizzly playing field like this," says Budman. "You're doing a great thing for your brand."

And, chances are, making lots of money. The secret deals that originally secured the Olympics have long since given way to unbridled commercialism, and the marketing bonanza surrounding the Winter Games is bigger than ever. Companies hungry for millions in exposure and Olympic prestige are willing to pay almost any price for the right to brandish the Games' most jealously guarded symbol: the five Olympic rings. These multicolored hoops, according to a global survey

by London-based Sponsorship Research International, are the most recognized symbol in the world—better known than the McDonald's arches or even the Christian cross. Olympic organizers have learned to leverage that fame to the hilt, offering rich sponsorship deals that include growing numbers of non-cash perks from free clothing to gifts for athletes. And the gift rush shows no sign of slowing. As Paul Shearer, the executive director of marketing for the Canadian Olympic Association, puts it: "There's no shortage of people who are willing to pay more and more money for sponsorship."

It's not hard to see why. The Games are easily the most-watched sporting event in the world—at a time when the television audience for many professional sports is eroding. The 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta attracted an average daily audience of 1.2 billion people, making it the most popular sport to event in history. In Canada, about 86 per cent of those surveyed in a January poll said they expect to tune into coverage of the Nagano Games at some point during the 36-day extravaganza. In the first three days, that translated into as many as 2.7 million viewers during the prime 6 to 11 p.m. time slot, says Jim Byrd, vice-president of English television networks for the CBC. KCB's exclusive U.S. broadcast pulled down a prime-time viewership of about 88.5 million. And as increasingly fragmented TV markets, with its sprawling array of new channels, test have made the Olympics far and away the best sporting event in town. "Advertisers just have to be there," says Naji Dawes, a professor of marketing



Television spots for Labatt's Beer, Glenlivet 5500, and UPS parcel delivery: \$1,300 a second in prime time

at the University of Western Ontario in London. "We live of the live events where you can still reach a mass audience."

But the appeal goes beyond numbers alone. "In raw marketing terms, the viewer demographic and the exposure you get with the Olympics is about as good as you can get with TV advertising," says Robert Duchesne, vice-president of marketing for Air Canada, which paid an undisclosed amount to become Team Canada's official airline. Unlike most sporting events, sponsors are awarded as audience that is almost evenly split between men and women, as well as the eyes and minds of many consumers who rarely watch TV.

That choice audience does not come cheaply. A 30-second commercial during prime time costs \$38,500. Still, there has been no shortage of takers. When McDonald's balked at the price tag, the CBC quickly sniped up Subway Sandwiches and Tim Hortons in the food-and-drink category. They were joined in the covered Olympic arena by 16 other major advertisers, including Air Canada, Labatt Brewing Co. of Canada Ltd., the Royal Bank, General Motors of Canada Ltd. and the Dairy Farmers of Canada.

Their messages are hard to miss. Byrd says the main channel will run a total of 5,700 30-second spots during its 240 hours of coverage. Newsweek, CBC's all-news cable channel, will run 1,500 ads over 100 hours. The network relies to replace its expected ad revenue losses—its competitive reasons. "But according to one estimate, the CBC has sold at least \$40 million in advertising for the Nagano Olympics, more than enough to cover the \$25-million cost for Canadian television rights and the estimated \$15-million price tag for Olympic organizers are selling some records of their own. Last summer, television network in unprecedented \$1.4 billion in sales and cash to pay off the official U.S. national company of the Olympic Games through 2008. For similar identification with the Games in Nagano and those in 2006 in Sydney, Australia, companies such as Eastman Kodak Co., Coca-Cola Co. and IBM paid the IOC more than \$27 million each to become international sponsors. Such sponsorships have raised a total of \$648 million for the Games.

The Canadian Olympic Association has been no stranger at the party. For the four years from 1987 to 2000 in-house, it has already generated more than 90 per cent of its target of \$35 million in sponsorships and licensing agreements. By comparison, the association attracted \$16 million for the four-year period that included the At-

lanta Games. The Canadian Olympic Association receives no direct share of TV advertising revenue, but instead profits are diverted off by the IOC. Instead, a minuscule money by selling companies status as official "sponsor partners." The cost: \$1 million or more a shot. As a cheaper option, companies that supply \$200,000 or more in goods or services to the association are granted more limited rights as "official suppliers" that all 14 Canadian companies that have paid to join one or the other category are added to the Olympic name, as well as the rings and torch symbols, in their marketing.

These insignificantly become a measure of prestige on any advertising campaign. And both the IOC and the Canadian Olympic Association are constantly on guard for so-called "nash marketers"—firms that make unannounced use of the coveted symbols. Last week, the Canadian association successfully forced a regional television ad for Saskatchewan Power Corp. off the air because it depicted five curling rocks coming together to form the Olympic rings.

While the cost of sponsorship is steep, the association says it looks for companies with more than merely deep pockets. "It's not in our best interests just to sign up a sponsor who writes us a check," says Shearer. "We want someone to promote what we're all about." That is why the Senior Resource Centre Inc., which represents Canada's major telephone companies, funded the development of Olympic logos and jerseys, which were distributed to elementary schools across Canada. Home Depot Canada is an active participant in the COA's Athlete Job Opportunities Program. The Toronto-based company is committed to hiring 30 Olympic athletes over the next four years, paying them full-time wages to work only half-time—an arrangement that will give them more opportunity to train.

The association also puts a premium on firms that run innovative marketing, says David Skidmore, vice-president of marketing for Labatt. Creativity is essential to cut through the clutter of ads that typically accompanies coverage of the Games. "The Olympics force companies to raise the high bar," says Skidmore. "To make sure they have advertising that breaks through." Labatt has scored points with viewers during the Nagano Games with an official sponsor's Kokekote beer that features a Goldilocks' mother bear swelling, then splitting out, a snow-covered. The runaway success of Olympic marketing campaigns like those of Labatt or Roots has given a new meaning to the Games' ancient motto: "To be faster, higher, stronger" sponsors and organizers can now add "richer." □

## THE REALLY BIG SHOWS

Worldwide television audiences for selected sporting events, in millions of viewers



\*Only average

# Number 2... with a bullet

Newcourt Credit aims to be the world's leading nonbank lender

BY NOMI MOSEBIS

**S**teve Hudson, loaned early about the power of performance-based compensation. As a teenager in Scarborough, Ont., he took a job at a summer ball for seniors, pushing a refreshment cart up and down the aisles. The most chips and popcorn he sold, the more money he took home. It was a lesson Hudson, now 39, never forgot. As he puts it: "You eat what you kill." That pragmatic principle has plainly served him well. The leasing firm Hudson founded in 1984, Newcourt Credit Group, has just become the second-largest nonbank lending house in the world.

Getting there has made colleagues of 35 Newcourt employees, including Hudson and his two 38-year-old deputies—Bradley Nallmeyer, head of commercial lending, and David McKerrill, who runs the corporate finance side of the company. They credit their success to a workplace company culture in which base salaries are

low, bonuses high and virtually everyone is a part owner. "If you don't care your badge, you simply don't stay," Hudson said in an interview at the firm's office in Toronto's Bloor-Yonge Place, one of corporate Canada's most coveted addresses. Hudson himself plays the part of the able, trust-inspiring group leader, anxious to share the credit for Newcourt's success with Nallmeyer, McKerrill and their clients.

What they do hardly sounds glamorous. In simple terms, Newcourt provides financing for lease-to-own equipment-leasing deals—often for construction, transportation and aircraft fleets. It also provides financing for manufacturers such as Dell Computer Corp. of Texas, Western Star Truck Holdings Ltd. of Kelowna, B.C., and Yamaha Motor Canada Ltd., its sell and lease equipment to their customers. But the field is a growing one: Newcourt's total nonbank assets for at least 40 per cent of the North American commercial assets market, up from 20 per cent in 1994.

A corporate demand for fast, flexible financing options has taken

Hudson, a  
workaholic  
culture where  
everyone is  
an owner

off over the last five years, Newcourt has metamorphosed from a humble leasing outfit into an international powerhouse. As revenues have grown from \$32 million in 1992 to \$64 million in 1995, the bulk of Newcourt's business has shifted beyond Canada's borders. This year, only 30 per cent of its deals are expected to be done in Canada, compared to 88 per cent in 1993. Moreover, Newcourt shares have gone through the roof: stock worth \$23.50 a share when it was issued in 1994 was trading at \$60 last week. "We have grown up on growth," Hudson says. "It becomes a way of life."

The pace has sometimes been blistering. The company has made 18 acquisitions in the past six years, including three since last August, when Newcourt paid \$260 million for Commonwealth Financial Services Inc., CIBC's leasing arm. A month later, Newcourt purchased Business Technology Finance, a division of Lloyd's Bank PLC, for \$322 million.

But Newcourt's biggest and most ambitious acquisition so far is its \$2.3-billion takeover of Morrissey, N.J.-based AT&T Capital Inc., which closed in mid-January. The deal truly tripled Newcourt's owned and managed assets—from \$1.1 billion to \$3.2 billion—was financed through the sale of Newcourt shares, without any debt. Says McKerrill of the conservatively leveraged acquisition: "We're three accountants. We've never done anything really scary."

The fear should perhaps be among Newcourt's competitors. With its acquisition from AT&T, Newcourt now ranks in 24 countries around the world, becoming larger than all other players in the field save one: giant GE Capital Corp. of Fairfield, Conn. The lending subsidiary of General Electric Co. is twice the size of the Toronto company, but Newcourt has plans to surpass it. The firm expects to grow by 20 per cent annually as it pursues more global busi-

ness in the fast-growing computer, telecommunications and aerospace industries. Says Hudson, "It's a very, very long game. We are only at halftime."

Still, Newcourt's achievements in date have already turned Hudson into something of a poster boy for Bay Street's young and exceedingly rich. It is an image that makes him squirm. Although his income in 1995 was a far from-dubious \$2.9 million and his 2.78 per cent of Newcourt stock is worth roughly \$300 million, Hudson prefers to portray himself as a dull but forward-thinking accountant who made good. "Everyone thinks it's an overnight success," he protests, "but we've been at it for 15 years."

That modest and polite attitude has its roots in the solid middle-class background that all three Newcourt principals share. Hudson's mother is an accounts payable clerk for a candy retailer; his father is a retired heavy machinery mechanic. For Ontario Hydro who reacts to his son's success by asking that he brought the wrong kid home from the hospital. Nallmeyer, the son of a Baptist minister and a school teacher, worked as a gas-jockey in Barrie, Ont., while McKerrill was delivering newspapers for a drugstore in Owen Sound, 200 km to the northwest. "We were all self-starters with an entrepreneurial spirit," says Hudson, adding: "There's not a shred of the Canadian Establishment in this company."

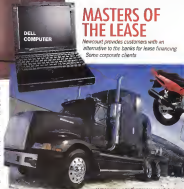
That tight-knit impulse is apparent in Newcourt's open-plan office design, which more closely resembles a newsroom or a trading floor than a conventional investment bank. Hudson, Nallmeyer and McKerrill each work at small desks at the edge of the floor, with no cubicles or dividers of underlines. That arrangement, the three insist, along with encouraging employees to call them at home, assures that they hear about developing problems before they get out of hand.

Not that Newcourt's top managers are blind to the importance of image. "If a client came and sat in an open-office environment to talk about a \$600-million deal, you're going to feel uncomfortable," explains Hudson. "So we created an area I call the granite island." It's Newcourt's lobby, an all-palatial by Canadian's Michael French hangs now a collection of old English games and three video monitors displaying stock prices. Black wallpaper sets off the polished brass fittings in the rest rooms. It is the sort of ambience in which former prime minister John Turner and ex-Quebec premier Jacques Parizeau are expected to feel at home when they meet with Hudson to discuss the nonprofit Toronto foundation to which all three give time.

Hudson's body-climb from being a concessionaire to charity foundation chairman began with a dive in the Toronto offices of Clarkson Gordon, where he struck up an acquaintance with two other ambitious young accountants: Nallmeyer and McKerrill. After what he describes as a "short square" at Clarkson, Hudson left the accounting firm in 1983 to become a business manager at Toronto General Hospital. It was there that the eager 34-year-old came up with a way

## MASTERS OF THE LEASE

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## BUSINESS

to help support sequenced health administration aimed expensive equipment such as CAT scanners through innovative, low-driven leasing deals. Hudson got his hospital job a year later and found his own company to pursue the concept. Michael O'Reilly was CEO of a suburban Toronto hospital when Hudson first approached him with the untested idea. "This was completely new," recalls O'Reilly, now an executive search consultant and close friend of Hudson. "It was a window that had never been opened."

After securing Mullineux in 1986 and McKinnell the next year, Hudson trained his sights on universities, again managing to win over skeptics among the lawyers and bankers on their boards of directors. Dental assistant Steven Small became Hudson's start-up backer. Within a week of meeting Hudson in 1984, Small let \$400,000 on his venture. "He had a brilliant idea," Small says, "seriously simple but extraordinarily sophisticated." And, he adds, Hudson "was thinking his right from the beginning. He did a half-billion dollars of transactions in the first year."

Newcourt can now do that much in a single transaction. McKinnell recently negotiated a \$600-million agreement with U.S. insurance reformer MetLife Group Inc. of Farmington, N.M., to lease 16 regional aircraft manufactured by Bombardier Inc. of Montreal. There are plans for McKinnell to acquire another 16 in a second stage of the deal.

The ride up has not always been smooth. Hunting for larger sources of financing,

Newcourt sold a large part of its stake to Confederation Life Insurance Co. in the late 1980s. Within three years, Newcourt learned what Hudson calls a "near death experience," as Confederation Life folded, and was ultimately put into liquidation in 1994. "It's all about recording failures because of them," Hudson quips today, adding "it's that kind of experience that cements the management team." Still, Hudson says the debacle forced Newcourt to focus on those sectors where it does best. Recently, that has meant turning away offers to take over the former subsidiaries of several companies—including one large subsidiary—which they felt they would be stepping into markets that are foreign to them.

Colling-based is a true believer in the partnership principle. Hudson peppers his conversation with motivational management terms, speaking of "creating commodities" instead of employing. Specifically, that means paying staff a modest base salary—Hudson, Mullineux and McKinnell are at the top with upwards of \$100,000 a year—supplemented by rising bonuses, which kick in only once the company generates enough business to reach a 30-year return on the value of Newcourt stock. The system, Hudson asserts, helps to "sweeten the pool from the excellent. If someone leaves, it tells you they're not comfortable that they can produce." Another form of motivation is to provide new employees to buy shares. Employees own 11 per cent of the firm.

Newcourt's challenge now is to graft that entrepreneurial culture on to the far less efficient AT&T. The former U.S. giant had already begun a turnaround under CEO David Berke, who will have a conflicting role as chairman of the combined company. Paul Currie, the former CEO of the Ontario government's privatization secretariat, has been hired as executive vice-president to handle the integration of the two leading hospitals. But, Hudson and McKinnell are selling up second homes for themselves in New Jersey, to help oversee the transition. McKinnell's income based in Toronto.

Already, the three men spent most of the time on the road, and say they find it a struggle to get back to Canada every weekend or so to see their young families. Mullineux and McKinnell each have three children under 30. Hudson, who has an eight-year-old boy from his first marriage and a 10-month-old son with his second wife, says he misses a point of carrying out time for his family. But what he appears to be returning most is his plan to become the global leader in notebook lending. "This company is very much like a child," says Hudson. "It needs constant care. We go to bed with it, we wake up with it. We've gone through infancy and the teenage years. We're now into early adulthood." A proud and proud parent, Hudson says he's looking forward to seeing his cash-rich baby when it reaches maturity.

## GROWING UP



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## BUSINESS



Hockey night in Toronto: prices at the arena soar

## A breakaway deal

Toronto's Leafs and Raptors forge a marriage

Call it the greatest union that cannot when a gifted dealmaker goes some physical writing, usually in the stomach or fingertips, that the answer comes at his and contractor are con verging. Corporate interests are being drawn together and some sought-after alliance is close at hand. This, says Paul Godfrey, is what he began to feel in the past month when it appeared possible that the owners of the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey club and the Toronto Raptors basketball team were fast going to sign the closest, most ground record to combine the two franchises into a single business entity worth an estimated \$350 million to \$500 million. "I could tell it," said Godfrey, the former municipal politician turned media executive who brokered the coup. "You could see the spark. I knew it was going to happen."

Godfrey was right. After years of squabbling and brinkmanship over which organization would get to call the shots should the skaters and the dribblers ever decide to compete under the same multimillion-dollar roof, the Leafs and the Raptors joined forces last week. Maple Leaf Gardens Ltd., the company that owns both the famed hockey stadium and the team, announced that it had reached an agreement to buy the National Basketball Association's Toronto Raptors, as well as the basketball team's controversial arena now under construction in downtown Toronto. Approximately

enough, the mega-million-dollar marriage was unveiled in the city's Union Station. The landmark railway terminal adjoins the Raptors' new arena and, if all parties can agree on a rental price for the underlying land, it will become the final proof of what its new owners envision as the country's premier sports, entertainment and retail complex. Already, the struggling Raptors are the focus of much media attention for



Stavro, Raptors' ingit, a sports empire expands

one moment one day after announcing the ownership sale, they traded their franchise player, Damon Stoudamire, and "retired" their coach, Darrell Walker.

Godfrey, who is president and CEO of Sun Media Corp., takes and gets much of the credit for the historic deal. One of the city's most influential power brokers, Godfrey orchestrated the deal-shifting talks at early January. He says he was convinced that the major shareholders of the two groups—multibillionaire grocer Steve Stives, who controls

the Leafs, and Raptors owner Allen Shaght, who heads Standard Broadcasting Corp.—could find a compromise that would save them the expense of maintaining two sports stadiums in an era when economists dictate that even the most vibrant North American city can sustain only one. "Nothing is everything," said Bob Bertram, senior vice-president at investments for the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board, the pension fund that owns 49 per cent of Maple Leaf Gardens. "We decided to make a few phone calls and the thing was right. People were ready to deal."

In the end, the deal came together because Shaght, who cited the weak Canadian dollar and the looming prospect of an NBA bailout dispute for wanting to retire from professional sports, offered to sell his 66-per-cent Raptors stake to Stives. Nevertheless, negotiations went down to the wire: a deal was signed less than two hours before the news conference was scheduled to start.

Because the companies involved are privately owned, none are obliged to say how much money is changing hands—or how much more will be involved in either the arena or Union Station, which the Leafs bought at the same time from Canada's two national railway companies and whose subway/consumer rail terminal will be connected to the new arena. But the Leafs are thought to be spending upwards of \$250 million, at least \$180 million for the Raptors franchise; \$50 million for Union Station and the rest to buy and complete the arena, named the Air Canada Centre after its main corporate sponsor.

At least as big a question for fans as the dollars involved, however, is what impact the merger will have on the performance of Toronto's hockey and basketball teams. Both organizations have suffered from the uncertainties swirling around their management and ownership in recent years. A related question is the future role in the combined organization of Larry Tanenbaum, the paving magnate who talked to land the NBA franchise back in 1980, and who bought into the Leafs in 1990. Tanenbaum, who stayed in the background last week while Godfrey, Shaght, Stives and every elected official who could climb his way to the microphone took the podium, was coy. "Toronto loves basketball and Toronto loves hockey," Tanenbaum allowed, "so we are going to make sure it makes good sense for both sports and the owners." The challenge for the dealmakers now is to prove they can bring their basketball empire to the ice and the court as well.

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Deirdre McMurdy



# The Bottom Line

## Gulf's miscast cowboy

**M**idway through a conversation last week, the telephone rang. P. Bryan's Calgary office rang. He answered it. When he returned, he was chuckling. "That," he said, "was a headhunter asking if I'd be interested in a new job."

The call came just one day after Bryan announced that he was leaving his post as chairman and CEO of Gulf Canada, the oil and gas company he salvaged from the wreckage of the Bonanza empire three years ago. Bryan's sudden departure was billed as a "mutual agreement" between him and the Gulf board of directors. But insiders say that wrangling over such issues as his controversial style and moderate views for the company ultimately led to his ouster—cushioned by a hefty severance package.

Bryan admits he has "mixed emotions" about abandoning his plan to create a lean, world-class energy company. But he also says he'll be sore to see his firm he is back in the job market. "I'm going back to Texas to get reacquainted with my family and friends and my ranch," he said. "It has been a very stressful three years."

A casual glance through any clipping on the Bryan source would provide a stark but somewhat misleading impression of the 56-year-old executive. The headlines depict a brash, tough-talking Texan who bought 25 per cent of Gulf in 1984—then promptly slashed 40 per cent of its staff. He then proceeded to rebuild Gulf's asset base—and accumulate a staggering debtload—with a series of large, hostile acquisitions. Along the way, he gained national notoriety for his candid views on Quebec's sovereignty, and alienated the Calgary business community with his decision last year to move Gulf's headquarters to Denver.

But cowboy clippings notwithstanding, Bryan is also a lawyer with a distinguished career as a Wall Street investment banker, oilfield financier, oil collector and Wild West lawman. "I don't recognize myself as this gruff, aggressive fellow I read about," says Bryan. "Sure I've got lots of views on

things. But actually, my brother says I'm too kind-hearted, too much of a troublemaker."

For someone with such a tough-guy reputation, Bryan is surprisingly self-proclaimed—as well as openly disappointed—about his failure to complete his restructuring of Gulf. The plan called for the company to be reorganized in a hub-and-spoke format. At the hub would be a tightly leashed management team that coordinated operations in the various spokes. Administrative functions such as accounting, marketing and information services would be tele-controlled and on a user-pay basis to avoid layers of internal bureaucracy.

Although he managed to reorganize Gulf's marketing department along those lines, Bryan concedes there was relatively little support for his innovative approach. "I wanted to focus narrowly on what we were best at as an organization, and strip away the rest," he explains. "But too many people were uncomfortable with a break from traditional structure."

Bryan's views on the role of the CEO also break with corporate tradition. He claims that "management is about facts and manipulation of people and paper. It's a hollow process." To replace that, CEOs should prefer to be leaders, largely a path and sharing responsibility with others. Gulf's leaders, however, claim that Bryan's willingness to delegate and leave operating details to others may have contributed to the board's lack of confidence in his plan. Said one board member: "Let's just say he was undermined at the board level because he was too much of a troublemaker."

Bryan leaves Gulf with \$2.7 billion in debt at a time when world oil prices have dropped sharply and the company's stock is trading around a one-year low. Gulf's new CEO, Richard Auchincloss, a 25-year veteran of the company, is now left to integrate its recent acquisitions at the same time as he reduces the debt that bought them. And industry analysts—including J.P. Blevins himself—admit Gulf may work for the ultimate reward: a company rebuilt by acquiring others may soon become a takeover target itself.

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# Its master's voice

The authors of director Stanley Kubrick's science-fiction epic 2001: A Space Odyssey was a computer named HAL, who joins a crew of astronauts tracking a mysterious radio signal to Jupiter. Along the way, friendly HAL undergoes a personality change and becomes evil HAL, he holds the crew hostage until they can figure out a way to switch off his electronic brain. Now the sort of behavior that would inspire anyone to rattle out a bad review of HAL. But where science fiction goes, science also follows. And such is the case with speech-recognition technology, whose goal is to recognize the spoken word and render it accurately as text. For 25 years, such capabilities have been a dream goal of interest only to scientists while costs fell. In 1984, IBM Corp. unveiled to show off a system that could take dictation—but only from trained speakers who limited their vocabulary to 5,000 words. An even bigger drawback: it was connected to a pile of equipment big enough to fill a room.

Now, finally, speech-enabled software for the PC is ready for prime time, at least according to Dragon Systems Inc. of Newton, Mass. Last November, its NaturallySpeaking lineup of products won rave reviews from the media at the annual Comdex computer trade show in Las Vegas. Her And earlier this month, the company signed an agreement with Corel Corp. of Ottawa that will soon see NaturallySpeaking bundled into every version of WordPerfect sold. (Under an earlier deal, passed between the two companies in January, 1997, the speech engine would have been only in the "lower-end" edition of WordPerfect.) Within a few years, everyone will have speech on their computer; in the same way you have a keyboard and mouse to type, says Roger Matus, the 35-year-old vice president of marketing at Dragon Systems.

What does it take to get NaturallySpeaking up and running? To begin with, a PC with a Pentium 133 processor or better, 32 megabytes of memory, and Windows 95. Every copy of NaturallySpeaking comes with a high-quality headset microphone, which must be worn during dictation to make the software work—as part to ensure the mouth is always a constant distance from the mike but also to delete background noise. Installation requires users to read an 18-minute passage into the system as a means of "teaching it" to their particular voice. (Ironically, one of the passages they may choose is an excerpt from

2001: The Final Odyssey, from the same author who created HAL, Arthur C. Clarke.) Once that is done, NaturallySpeaking can handle dictation of up to 180 words per minute using either Microsoft Word or WordPerfect. It has a 200,000-word vocabulary that can be customized according to the user's needs. The company says the system is about 99 per cent accurate to start with, but gets better over time—as high as 95 per cent accuracy—as the software



Dictating into the computer: programs learn as they go

## Voice-activated software lets computers write as users speak

ware learns from corrections. In addition, to dictation, NaturallySpeaking can read back text, and perform basic word processing functions by means of simple voice commands.

The technology on which NaturallySpeaking is based was developed by chief executive Jan Baker in the 1970s while he was working on his PhD in computer science at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh. He and his wife, Janet, founded Dragon Systems in 1982. Today, the company has 280 employees, with subsidiaries in Britain and Germany. Dragon Systems' first taste of success came in 1990, with the launch of DragonDictate—a so-called discreet dictation system (the user was required to pause between words) with a 200,000-word vocabulary. While interesting, this hardly set the world on fire. The breakthrough, Dragon Systems had been waiting for, finally came in June, 1997, with the launch of the \$140 NaturallySpeaking Personal Edition for the PC. The same

drawback of this version: it works only with Dragon's word processor. Over the next five months, Dragon Systems unveiled NaturallySpeaking Preferred (\$219)—the package that works with WordPerfect and MS Word—and Deluxe (\$1,000), a version with specialized vocabulary aimed at lawyers.

When the Bakers started Dragon Systems, they were not sure whether they would see continuous success in their lifetime. What changed the prognosis was something called Moore's Law, the notion that new technology is doubling computer power and speed every 18 months. Over the past five years, that has meant that PCs have finally become powerful enough to handle the complex algorithms in which continuous speech recognition is based.

Still, the current technology has a short-coming of critics, among them Microsoft Corp. of Redmond, Wash., which has yet to release its own speech-recognition product. Last year, the world's biggest software company invested \$52 million in Research's Lernout & Hauspie Speech Products, a company whose voice-enabling software is sold mostly to original equipment manufacturers. Kevin Schaefer, a senior program manager in Microsoft's speech technology group, says the biggest problem with the current generation of voice-computing is that applications are designed around specific microphones. If, for instance, a user wants to use Dragon Systems' headset with someone else's software, the results will likely be less than satisfactory. Schaefer says the answer is to embed speech recognition into the operating system, thereby enabling widespread application of the technology. But our saying that, speech with other software—namely its Explorer Internet browser—has gotten Microsoft into trouble with regulators, who have charged it gives the company too much clout in the industry.

Dragon Systems' main competitor is IBM, whose ViaVoice product was launched in August, 1997, at \$139. ViaVoice Gold, an enhanced version that sells for \$199, hit the market a few months later. IBM and Dragon are now running neck and neck in the race to control North America's \$140-million retail market for PC voice recognition—a market that analysts expect will reach \$140 million within five years.

On the surface, it is difficult to tell NaturallySpeaking and ViaVoice apart. "No one has a technological lead," says Dan Lavin, a multimedia software analyst with research company Dataquest in San Jose, Calif. At current, Lavin says, is still an issue: "Backing up and fixing every 10th word is a problem," as is the fact that Microsoft's Schaefer, may not be ready by 2000.

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# People

Edited by  
TANYA DAVIES

## Two paths, same peak

**T**his will be a big year for Canada at the Oscars. For the first time, two Canadians are nominated in the best director category: Atom Egoyan for *The Sweet Hereafter* and James Cameron for *Titanic*. The two filmmakers have pursued divergent career paths to arrive in the Academy's glow. Egoyan, 35, who also received an Oscar nod for best adapted screenplay, lives in Toronto, and has found fame in Europe and on the North American independent cinema circuit for his modestly budgeted, critically acclaimed movies. Made in Canada for \$3.5 million, *The Sweet Hereafter* has taken in \$9 million internationally. "I've been making my very personal films in Canada for a number of years," says Egoyan. "The *Sweet Hereafter* has been the highlight of my career."

By comparison, Cameron's *Titanic* is the most expensive movie in Hollywood history, costing more than \$200 million (U.S.), and



Egoyan (left) and Cameron (right) are up for best director Oscars

grossing \$480 million (Can.) in North America alone, making it fourth in the top-selling films of all time. Cameron, 44, grew up in Piquette Falls, Ont., before heading south at age 17 to pursue his Tinseltown dreams. He has already triumphed in box-office terms, though not always critically, but *Titanic* has elevated Cameron to a new level of Hollywood nobility. Nominated in 14 categories—including best picture—*Titanic* ties a record set by the 1956 film *Around the World in 80 Days*. Branching out: The Canadian movie-makers are. Most notable: Sylvain Chabot's *Les Violons Dans le Foyer* (*The Old Lady and the Fugitive*), far best awarded short. And James Horner's and Will Jennings's *Titanic* tune, *My Heart Will Go On*, sung by Celine Dion, in the original song category—more proof of that film's unassailable

## The fowl Monty

**A**rist Monty: Teto's colorful, cartoon-like images of Mounties, beavers and hockey players can be found almost everywhere in Canada, from souvenir shops and bookstores to art galleries. It all started in 1966, when he sketched T-shirts with intrusive pictures and sold them at the Vancouver Expo. "I tried to find out what other countries see when they look at Canada," says Teto, whose two-by-three-metre canvases of seven mountains hangs in the RCMP headquarters in Ottawa. "And that is how I chose the roles." Teto, 37, who lives in Montreal and Manhattan, has just released his third children's book, *Monty Goes South*, about a Canada goose whose fear of heights is keeping him from joining the other snowbirds. "I tried to imagine how a goose would conquer a fear of flying," says Teto, who has Monty exploring alternative forms of transportation, including skateboarding and bungee jumping. "The story can be appreciated by both kids and adults. My images are really simple and easy to understand." As is his success.



## A newsy opera

**A**BC World News Tonight anchorman Peter Jennings, 58, has parlayed his confident style into the top-ranked news spot in the United States. The Ottawa native is now harnessing his smooth voice to a goal closer to his heart: raising money for the cash-strapped Opera Lyra Ottawa and National Arts Centre. His sister, Sarah Jennings, a cultural journalist in the national capital, was instrumental in getting Jennings to agree to appear at a Feb. 27 fund-raising performance of *The Merry Widow* at the NAC. "It's a great excuse to come to Ottawa and have fun," says New York City-based Jennings, who will play Nepos, the narrator who leads the audience through the plot of the turn-of-the-century romantic comedy. In order to reflect the Ottawa scene, Jennings will slightly change the humorous banter in his dialogue aimed at publicists, baristas and diners. "I will try to make it fit the local political reality," he says. Telling the story as he sees it.

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Nina Carr, employee at Joffe, sits atop with co-workers and watches

## Napping on the job

If Dr. Adam Moscovitch could prescribe a habit for time-pressed society, he would choose the 20-minute nap. Whether you are an executive or a housewife, if you are having trouble staying awake, napping can be good for you," says the director of the Canadian Sleep Institute in Calgary. Moscovitch has been following his own advice for at least five years. He claims he could never make it through the day without his afternoon siesta. Now, some parts of the business world are taking his advice, too. Companies that well-rested employees are efficient employees, a growing number of companies offer courses on proper sleep habits, including napping. And some, such as Calgary-based Canadian Pacific Railway Co. and Nova Corp., allow some night workers to look off in mid-shift for a quick snooze.

According to Moscovitch, the fact that any employer is willing to monitor naps at any hour signals a subtle shift away from the staid notion that 20th-century business can deny their biological imperative to sleep. "Since the invention of the lightbulb, we have had the flames we can turn our body on and off at will," he says. "We control." That has not stopped people from trying. Now, for example, millions of North Americans are sacrificing hours of sleep in order

to watch live broadcasts of the Nigerian Olympics into the small hours of the morning. But even without the appeal of the Olympics, sleep deprivation has become commonplace. Some 61 per cent of Canadians live through their days feeling sleepy, according to a 1991 Statistics Canada report. And U.S. surveys show that North Americans have probably reduced their average nightly sleep time to seven hours from 10 hours a night since the lightbulb's invention in 1879. While that may be enough for some, it is probably far too little for most, says Dr. Charles George, director of the Sleep Disorders Laboratory at the Health Sciences Centre in London, Ont. Several studies show that even if they do not feel dazed, most people who get a night from seven or eight hours of sleep a night are more irritable, react more slowly and are more likely to make mistakes than those who are well-rested.

The most obvious solution is to get more sleep at night. But when that is not possible, it may be just as helpful to catch a few winks according to the body's biological rhythm. "The point is not in sleeping more, it is in

sleeping better," says Dr. Claudio Stampi, director of the Chronobiology Research Institute in Newton, Mass. The sleep patterns produced by napping, he adds, "may be part of sleeping better."

Studies of people locked in rooms with no time cues suggest that humans are inherent nappers—programmed to sleep for several hours at night and then for a shorter one in the middle of the afternoon. That means most people will naturally become sleepy and function less efficiently for two or three hours after lunch, an effect that is more pronounced in people who are deprived of sleep. Night workers have an even harder time staying awake through their shift, even if they are well-rested. NASB researchers have found that pilots on overnight flights tend to drift into short spells of sleep even when their eyes are open. The spells are most common around 4 a.m., when the body would naturally be in its deepest sleep. However, laboratory tests show that a 20-minute nap can restore alertness and functioning to normal levels at the rest of the afternoon or through the night.

In a pinch, napping can also replace normal nighttime sleep. Workers such as emergency rescue crews can sometimes get only a few hours of rest a night. However, Stampi has shown that those who do in a series of half-hour naps get just as much sleep as those who sleep—considered the most restorative—as someone who gets eight hours a night.

Why naps can provide such a disproportionate benefit is still a mystery to scientists. However, companies such as Nova Corp. are not waiting for an explanation. Under Moscovitch's guidance, the petrochemical producer recently set up nap rooms for shift workers at four plants in Calgary and Joffe, Alta. The employees are first taught about natural sleep cycles and good sleep habits. On the overnight shift, each is allowed to retire to a couch or reclining chair for a maximum 40-minute snooze if he or she is feeling tired.

Dr. Don Johnston, Nova Corp.'s medical director, admits the policy was hard to sell to skeptical managers who were concerned that employees would take advantage of the privilege. However, he says only about 25 per cent of workers take a nap, and

those who do report feeling more alert and less stressed through the night. The program has been so successful, he adds, that it will likely be expanded to other Canadian plants this year. "If people's sleep patterns are not altered," he says, "there is no point in trying to fool ourselves." That is just one more sense an busy countries where the clock has been multinationalized. But in Canadian business, it is a revolutionary concept.

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## Justice

# Victims who kill

Judges split over the battered woman syndrome

The crimes of Margaret Ann Mallott do not match the stereotype of an abused woman acting in self-defence. On March 23, 1991, she loaded a .38-calibre pistol, put it in her purse, and went for a drive with her former co-accused husband, a drug dealer who had abused her for nearly two decades before they split up eight months earlier. She shot him to death in the car. Then she took

McLellan's goal is to propose Criminal Code amendments to the previous one laid.

As the Mallott case showed, simply proving that an accused woman acted in self-defence is not enough to get her acquitted. Since its precedent-setting ruling in the Lavallee case in 1990, the Supreme Court has allowed expert testimony on the psychological effect of abuse to support a self-defence argument. The evidence can be taken to show

Why an accused woman might reasonably believed she needed to strike out at her abuser to stop him from harming or even killing her. After a review last year of nearly 100 cases of convicted women who say they killed in self-defence, Ontario provincial court Judge Lynn Ransmay urged Ontario to free women of the women.

The Supreme Court was unanimous in dismissing Mallott's appeal, but issues raised by the case divided the court along gender lines. Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé wrote her own reasons supported by the other women on the court.

Justice Beverley McLachlin, L'Heureux-Dubé argued for an expansive view of what sort of women deserves to have her history of abuse taken into account. "It is possible that those women are able to fit themselves within the stereotype of a victimized, passive, helpless, dependent, battered woman will not have their claims to self-defence fairly decided," she wrote.

McLachlin posed to vote into the issue, the split on the Supreme Court could be a sign of wider divisions to come among lawyers and lawmakers.

JOHN GREGORY in Ottawa



(Margaret Ann Mallott, who can use the defence?)

## EDUCATION

Ann Dowsett Johnston

# A player named Hoops

The real fees were still, the air was muddy and the carpet had seen better days than that when Finance Minister Paul Martin paid a pre-budget visit to the basement conference room of Ottawa's Lord Elgin Hotel to address the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. The mood was electric. For months, CASA's national director, 24-year-old Hoops Harrison, had been lobbying Martin, Human Resources Minister Pierre Pettigrew and the Prime Minister's Office, challenging them to set up. Now, petitions with more than 20,000 students' signatures were stacked for Martin to see, petitions demanding immediate reform. A black T-shirt, emblazoned with "Education builds a nation," had been rendered as a gift—but it was clear the minister had already got the message. "Hoops has been hanging me over the head," joked Martin, as he peered with CASA student leaders for television cameras. Banging him on the head, with no sign of letting up. An aide whisked Martin out of the room. Harrison kept pace would be allowed one more pre-budget presentation to the finance committee. "Yes, but we're not talking anyone else."

Hours later, the CASA gang was held up in their hospitality suite, counselling themselves with The Simpsons after their meeting with Martin got short shrift on the evening news. But for Richard Mountain Lee (Hoops) Harrison, the leader of the group who has earned a place—and perhaps a voice—at Martin's table, the day marked a clear victory. As the rest of his group headed out to Mother Tucker's for some easy-going pizza entertainment, Harrison settled in with his cell phone and a little more work. "There are a hundred different roads that lead to government," says Harrison, "and you have to hit them all."

Not since the Sixties have students flexed such political muscle—fighting not to change society, but to find their place in it. In the past few years, tuition has skyrocketed 70 per cent. Students are manipulating their salaries for no undergraduate degree, taking on an average debt of \$25,000. But while others are staying Sixties-style wise, CASA has been working the backrooms. "There's a difference between activism and being a pain in the ass," says Harrison. "Why would students target the CBC as the site of a protest after the bank came out in favour of lowering student debt levels? While they were doing that, we were meeting with the government."

It's not surprising Harrison has done little else since he arrived in Ottawa last May. Part Jean Stewart, part邓小平, Harrison, like Martin, is a round-the-clock player. One Pettigrew aide joked that the word "CASA" was now permanently burned into his phone's cell display field. Challenging policy, CASA's national director is unapologetic about his kooky tactics. "You have to have a clear understanding of what you want government to do," says Harrison. "The first step is getting the commission, and then you have to work your way through policy whips and waders to get what you want."

Last September, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien signed his consent to education, swelling his Millennium Scholarship Fund

in his throne speech. That fund will be one of the jewels in the crown of Martin's so-called learning package in next week's budget. For months, the details have been the subject of much rumour. But last fall, CASA wanted no time in folding the Millennium Fund into "Real Solutions," an open proposal for student assistance reform. "Real Solutions" outlines CASA income-based residential program. It proposes that students, upon leaving university, be given an extended transition period to establish themselves in the workforce before being responsible for full loan payment. For those who qualify as needy students, a series of deferred grants would help with repayment. As well, there would be a 15-year ceiling on the repayment time. One by one, Harrison has walked 30 MPs through the CASA proposal. "When you want to push change," says Harrison, "you need the buy-in from Human Resources—from the minister, the department and the parliamentary committee. CASA had two key men whom on that committee when everyone else, including the provinces, only had one. We pushed and we pushed."

CASA's resolve was only strengthened by a landmark report from the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission in November. The year-long study explored the impact of higher tuition and other related costs—not surprisingly, students from low-income families were accumulating the higher debt, with increasing reliance. "It was a flash of insight into the obvious," says Ray Wong, chairman of the committee overseeing the report. "But it served as a real warning. For the first time since the Second World War, the social compact that says that access to higher education will not across social class is being challenged."

The first alarm, however, Harrison says, in December after a campaign of letters and calls to L'Heureux-Dubé, the senior policy adviser to the Prime Minister, served to meet Harrison to discuss the shaping of the Millennium Fund and the viability of a need-based approach. "It was a Capra-esque moment," says Harrison. "It was late afternoon, and change things with a flick of his hand."

Last Thursday, Harrison made his last-ditch presentation to the finance committee. He argued for a seat on the foundation that will design and direct the Millennium Fund, ensuring that "there will be enough money for the right students, and that it won't be a Band-Aid solution." Emerging from the meeting, Harrison was pleased: "Man, did I fuck back."

Kicked back—and data out back to wait for Martin's gracelessness. The kid from Toronto, Alta., who drove a Zamboni and flipped burgers through high school, who graduated \$15,000 in debt two years ago, was on his budget as a personal umbrella—a nuclear-breakdown-saver at part of back work. What does Harrison, the politician, expect to see? Annual grants for students with dependent, humanitarian or financial/provincial issues, like a case for students. "Martin has said, 'What a government does with limited funds determines its values,'" says Harrison. "We don't address student debt reduction, this will be a worthless budget—and we'll know when they release it." There are a lot of Canadians who would agree with him.

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## Baseball and bombs

Don DeLillo prowls the shadows of America

BY DON GILLMOR

As we approach the end of what has been called the American Century, the big U.S. writers are responding with big books, accurate perhaps that the next century will be named for someone else. Norman Mailer was first with *Harbor's Ghost* (1991), and to ensure that his would remain the biggest, Mailer ended his 1,288-page novel with the words "to be continued." Gus Fabris followed with *Little Joe* (1992), while more recently Richard Ford published *Independence Day* (1995) and John Updike weighed in with *In the Beauty of the Lilies* (1996). They are all epic, literary explorations of our troubled, entertaining neighbor. Now, Don DeLillo's *Underworld* (Doubleday, \$27 paper) joins these books as a sporting critique of the just last century.

In a few years, bats will inevitably be made of the century's greatest painters, writers, musicians, etc., and DeLillo will likely figure prominently. It is partly because his work is so suited to the uncertainties of the times. DeLillo, 61, who lives with his wife, Barbara Bennett, a landscape designer, in Concord, has twice won the Pulitzer Prize for his literary gifts. His list of awards is extensive, including the PEN/Pulitzer Award (for his 1988 novel *Libra*) and the National Book Award (for 1985's *White Noise*). Though he has avoided the public eye and his books tend not to be best sellers, few writers have been as effective at capturing the mood of an era and nation that underlies the modern era. In *Libra*, his novel about Lee Harvey Oswald and the Kennedy assassination, DeLillo wrote that history is "the sum total of all the things they aren't telling us." *Underworld* finds the explanation of all the things "they" aren't telling us, but on a larger scale. Through a league metaphor,

"Underworld" was "recent to be misread, or apocryphal," says DeLillo. He is sitting in the celebrity suite at a Toronto hotel during a recent publicity tour, and a white-hot-looking fan debulking that has photographs, which, like his books, convey a vague sense of menace. "I was reading a long story about a baseball game," he says, "but I refused to read it." Once he decided that was a novel, he knew it would be a long book. "I had written a 25,000-word prologue and had yet to introduce a main character. So I was in trouble, so to speak. The book created itself."

*Underworld* looks at America through two



The author: I think a writer ought to be a collector

of its central mythologies, baseball and the Cold War. It opens with an extended description of the final game of the 1961 pennant race between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Giants. In DeLillo's map, leisure recreation, Frank Stronach, Tootie Shoo, J. Edgar Hoover and Jackie Gleason are all in the stands, sitting together. During the game, Gleason stuffs himself with hot dogs and booze and vents on Frank Sinatra's white-suited Italian lookers. Hoover, meanwhile, receives news from a mission that the Russians have successfully tested an atomic bomb. The Cold War has taken place. In reality, the Russians test did take place on the same day as the Dodgers-Giants game.

The Giants was the game when Bobby Thomson hit a three-run homer off Ralph Branca in the ninth inning. Fans cheer for the historic ball and it is recovered by the fictional Colter Martin, a young black kid

Underworld's complex structure is created by following the baseball through its various owners, particularly Nick Shary, who is in waste disposal. The baseball game veers despite the fact that its authenticity can't be verified. Like much of America's mythology, it exists between the worlds of fiction and reality.

"When I started *Underworld*," DeLillo says, "I tried to think of what the relationship might be between that ball game and the fact that the Soviets had exploded an atom bomb on the same day. In a way, that's why I started the book, to understand what the juxtaposition might be. It occurred to me that the ball game was a satisfying and largely pagan event, the kind of event where people come out of their houses. But with the atom of the bomb, the ceremonial game becomes associated with danger and less rather than celebration."

DeLillo himself is a slightly leaped sports fan. "I find it difficult to watch a sporting event without reading a book or a newspaper," he says. "The '96 playoffs and World Series did get me to a more in tune level. I'm still a Yankee fan, and they were in the Series and they played some last ball games. When I read the newspapers, I read the sports pages first." He is a football fan, too, rooting for the New York Giants, a team that won an overachieving surprise last season. "They seemed to be a lyrical fluster, an Italian unit at the standard greatness in 1995."

But another sports war politics has the same hold on the national psyche that they once did, DeLillo observes. When JFK died, the country mourned as one. The Watergate hearings had the quality of some sports, and people were motivated by the heroisms and intrigue. But Clinton's ongoing troubles haven't captured the public's imagination. "People just don't believe that the Clinton issues are sufficiently compelling," DeLillo says. "It's as if it's a sort of theme-park version of Jack Kennedy." It is here, DeLillo notes, a sort of fictional character.

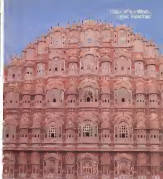
"I think we've begun to think of ourselves as fictional characters," DeLillo says, "that our lives are slowly turning to fiction in a certain way." The blurring of the line as something DeLillo admires, in part, to reinvent. The country sees itself through the drinking and another imagery of the world. The language of sitcom stars teaches into the language.

The blurring of fiction and reality is a familiar theme in DeLillo's work. History and fiction contained happily, even playfully, in *Libra*. The same ambiguity pervades *Underworld*, where there is a description of 2000s



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WHAT MATTERS TO CANADIANS

## BOOKS

books tests in which 200 pages were dressed in G.I. field jackets and placed at intervals away from the donation site. "In this when history turned to fiction," a character says.

*Underworld* is De Lillo's most sophisticated exploration of America's national identity. On the surface, the country is broader than in old dog, filled with people who use your name in every sentence, who are open for business. Beneath the Duke Cunningham, there lurks JFK's shadowed assassination, every CIA plot, Watergate, Iran-Contra, Pauls-gate—all the various Gates. America floats on a hazy pool of American history. "All the banned words, the secrets kept in white-washed vaults, the half-kept-forth plans—there's all out there now," De Lillo writes in *Underworld*, "steeping knowledge in the bad and acrid, inside the narrow folds of the base."

De Lillo has said that his work is about danger, specifically about modern danger, but the nature of modern danger has shifted with the end of the Cold War. "In the U.S.," De Lillo says, "there is a sense of randomness and emergency. What the Cold War years gave us was something against which to measure, even if that something was the horrific level of danger we were living under." With the Cold War over, without a clear and measurable enemy, America is slightly adrift. "It is almost possible to imagine a certain sense of nostalgia for the Cold War, of people missing the clearly defined areas of confrontation, the sense of measurable certainties."

De Lillo doesn't provide much in the way of measurable certainties. There is an obliqueness to his work, his characters are aloof, and *Underworld* unfolds like a jazz solo. But his words thrill. His events are driven by language, rather than characters or plot. "What I really want to do is create clear compelling and maybe beautiful sentences," De Lillo says. "That is what drives me as a writer."

While the innovative rhythms of his sentences have been widely praised, his pessimism and his view of humanity have been attacked by the American Right. He has been accused of writing political tracts and of being a bad citizen. "I think a writer ought to be a bad citizen," De Lillo says, smiling. "The writer can't have a responsibility to his own imagination. Fiction is always going to explore pain, violence, mysterious currents. And it should be there is also the arena of public events, and to writers, that becomes a kind of irresistible lure. The power of history."

De Lillo's books convey a sense of America's secret history. The "airborne music event" in *White Noise* and the hostage taking of *Underworld* had the quality of events that had yet to be recorded. At the end of *Underworld*, Nick Shay is in Russia, where they are going to detonate nuclear bombs underground as a method of waste disposal. It sounds plausible. It may have already happened, though it unlikely we'll find out about it. □

## Books

### She came undone

Martin Amis, the 46-year-old bad boy of literary London, known mostly for 1994 novel, *The Invention*—a tale of a killed writer who tries to destroy his friend, a best-selling author—was a brilliant, darkly funny satire of the British book world. *London Fields* (1989) contained a horrifying yet hilarious portrait of a small-time writer. Throughout most of his 13 books—10 of them novels—Amis has been preoccupied with different forms of human depravity. And, as with all good satirists, his cynical tone belies a wide streak of moral outrage. Now, in *Night Train* (Oxford Canada, 225 pages, \$29.95), Amis uses the genre of the hard-boiled detective story to explore another kind of moral outrage: the suicide of a seemingly happy, pitiful young woman. The results are mixed. A slim, ironic work, *Night Train* is at once a departure for Amis and a recycling of his obsessions, both sadism and melancholy.

Former alcoholic, serial survivor and 23-year police veteran Mike Hoskins, a derivate detective in an unnamed American city, has seen it all. Or she thinks she has until asked to investigate the apparent suicide of anthropologist Jennifer Rowdell. Beautiful, hardworking and kind, Jennifer was "an embodiment of perfection," as Hoskins describes her. So why would she blow her brains out? Her longtime lover, Steve Paulsaker, is devastated. Then Rowdell, Jennifer's lover and Hoskins's former boss, refuses to accept the suicide ruling and asks the detective to investigate.

As Hoskins tracks down various leads, Amis rewards his preoccupations with physical imperfections and the banalities of the dead, at the same time continuing to speculate about the nature of the cosmos. And while Hoskins's American slang at times sounds odd, the prose crackles with energy. Recalling her alcoholic past, Hoskins says "I was a bad drunk, too, the worst, like seven terrible dinners rolled into one and wedged up in a leather jacket and tight black jeans—slightly, rowdy, sloppy, slimy, messy, weepy and hairy."

Amis's story courts a strong narrative pull as it speeds to a conclusion. But the explanation of Jennifer's end, clever though it is, remains psychologically unconvincing. *Night Train* is a maddening, hilarious, but least failure—in last time to justice.

DAVID THORPE



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## Congratulations to Ontario's 1997 Premier's Awards Nominees

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**Steve Williams**  
Applied Arts Recipient

Academy Award nominee Steve

Williams is a graduate of Sheridan's  
Accelerated Classical Program, 1994

The ground-breaking computer animation in the re-released *Star Wars* is his. So are the dinosaurs in *Jurassic Park*. And Jim Carrey's facial contortions in *The Mask* garnered him an Academy Award nomination for Best Visual Effects. After a near decade-long stay as Industrial Light & Magic's Chief Animation Supervisor, he is now a partner in Pixar.

Steve is involved with high school students in North York's CyberArts Program, and is a popular guest speaker at public schools and fundraisers for the arts. He was recently appointed as an Adjunct Professor at Sheridan where his creativity and ingenuity will benefit animation and design students.



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## TELEVISION

Joe Chidley

## High-school confidential

On the more relaxing end of the popular culture is that TV is a youth thing—dishevelled teenagers staring blankly at the tube while mum and dad bark about how they'll get square eyeballs, privately worrying their kids are tuning into one murder or (or worse, *Sevens* and *Bethunes*). Reluctantly speaking, that's all heavy TV as an activity "belongs" to anyone, it's Canadian women over 18, who in 1996 watched in more than 35 hours a week, just ahead of over-60 men, who clocked 30-plus hours, according to survey results released by Statistics Canada this month. By contrast, people under 24 watched less TV than any other agegroup, and teens watched only about 17 hours a week—under half the television their grandmothers absorbed.

TV execs and industry watchers prefer a lot of reasons for teen disaffection with the tube: teenagers spend their evenings glued to the Internet or playing videogames, they have active social lives, and so on. But maybe there's an other explanation: TV often preaches what teenagers want to watch. The U.S. networks have not produced a teen-mad genre since *teen* was slacker the critically panned but low-rated *My So-Called Life*, cancelled after five months on the air in 1995. Since then, ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox have more or less given up on teen-oriented fare. And that puts a stale end to the teenpopper era, Fox's *Becker* (late 1992/93), whose beautiful leads with social consciousness and cool cars are (in real life) now pushing 30, is beginning to look positively hoary.

But television ain't all over. And the big network neglect of the teen audience has opened up opportunities for other, less commercially oriented TV producers, like our writers, Canadians. As with UN perceiving or publicly bawling behind their ears, Canadians have built genre where there's U.S. network counterprogramming to be had. In the process, they have turned youth TV into something of a cottage industry in Canada, led by the likes of Straight Up, which makes its long-awaited return to CBC in Feb. 25. Canadian teen TV has developed into a genre all its own, gritty and realistic—a kind of television *confidential*.

The high-winded serial *Madison*, created by Vancouver's Fairbank Productions, is now in its fifth season on CBC, and is said to broadcast around the world. The loudest but



Scene from  
Straight  
Up, next  
and right:  
Adolescents

durable *Madison* or *Not* continues to cater to younger teens on the Global network. The idea, which at the moment is neither on air nor off the CBC schedule (it hasn't officially been cancelled, goes after a niche of the niche, concentrating on the foibles of youths on a First Nations reserve. The most talked-about of the bunch is *Straight Up*, which focuses on high-school kids in an unnamed urban landscape that is clearly Toronto. "Wildly praised" when its first six episodes aired in 1996—and distributed in 15 countries since then—the show is proof that a teen-oriented series can transcend stereotypes.

Unlike 1992/93 (again, which *Straight Up* will compete in the Wednesday 8 p.m. timeslot), the Canadian show goes out of its way to portray teenagers realistically, complete with raging hormones, existential angst, sexual confusion and even sties—which would never be on the face of 1992/93's supposedly pretty stars. In fact, were it not for the production values and slick editing, anyone might be forgiven for mistaking *Straight Up* as a documentary—not surprising, since the show's producers, Joan Lushenko and Adrienne Mitchell, are best known for the docu *Talk 20* and *Talk 19*, which tracked the lives of a group of teenage girls. Adding to the impression of reality is the cast, few of whom were actors before they joined *Straight Up*. But what really

distinguishes the show is its attitude—city, uncompromising, but always interested. "A lot of other shows deal with issues—the drug war, the sex issue, whatever," says Lushenko. "We try to realize that teenagers are people, and first they are very complex."

The result is that the new season is sometimes messy, but often compelling. The first episode, entitled "Stripped," is among the best. After the seemingly senseless murder of a teenager at a local student banquet, Jeff (Mark Taylor) finds himself the subject of hallway rumors where he is seen considering the dead girl's girlfriend, whom he doesn't know. When a neighborhood gang puts out word that he's the murderer, he must confront the jerk who led to his bad name. This was 1992/93, the show would end with the two confronting the gang leader to give up crime. In *Straight Up*, the victory is personal, provincial, and—because they are believable—more satisfying.

*Straight Up* isn't perfect. Some of the series episodes are uneven, especially when otherwise talented actors try too hard to seem cool and ironic—wringing an another stereotype of teen delinquency. Others are nightmarishly dark—particularly "Rise," in which a young woman sexually assaulted at a party had most of her friends taken her seriously afterwards. But *Straight Up* still represents a significant accomplishment—not only a show geared to adolescents, but something even more rare: daring to move TV. Really there were more of this, for any age group.



# Tales of innocence

In two movies, dreamers upset the status quo

Stabilized movies have a hard time getting as good as the design of Hollywood product. But awards can help, and last week's Oscar nominations for best foreign film may save *Four Days in September*, a Brazilian terrorist drama, from obscurity. There are, however, some glaring omissions among the Academy's foreign-language choices, including another film now playing in Canada—*Ma vie en rose*, an extraordinary beauty drama from Belgium that has won a string of prizes, including the Golden Globe for best foreign film.

*Ma vie en rose* (My Life in Pink) breaks new ground in gender-identity drama with the poignant and evocative story of a seven-year-old boy named Ludovic (Georgios Da Frestas) who desperately wants to be a girl. To the consternation of his parents, he has a passion for playing with dolls, wearing dresses, applying lipstick. At first they try to suppress it as childish whims, but Ludovic's behavior becomes an embarrassment that opens a rift between his parents and threatens the family's status among their suburban neighbors—es-



*Da Frestas, a seven-year-old boy who desperately wants to be a girl*

pecially after Ludovic is discovered playing the bride in a pretend wedding with one of his father's intolerant colleagues.

*Da Frestas* plays it "straight," portraying the confused child with a masterful clarity that speaks volumes. As his parents, Marthe Languas and Jean-Philippe L  vy play out of a script that allows them to swing between moments of compassion and anger. Making its feature debut, Bel-

gium director Alain Resnais compares his son-in-law with a child's garden of Croyia colors, lending a touch of suburban surrealism to a lighthearted family drama that takes the odd detour into fairy-tale fantasy. Resnais balances pathos and wit with bold, clear strokes, and none of the mayhem that has often afflicted movies about childhood innocence—odd movies about gender bending.

*Four Days in September* dramatizes another kind of innocence, the passion of young revolutionaries who become caught up in terrorism. It is based on Mark's 1992, *Canada's* Fernando Cabreira's autobiographical book about his role in the 1968 kidnapping of Charles Bonlie Elbrick, the U.S. ambassador to Brazil. And although the film takes the viewpoint of the terrorists, it is remarkably overhauled. Elbrick, played with paternal warmth and wisdom by Alan Arkin, is immensely likable. Even the secret police who hunt the terrorists and impose their controls are gut guys doing their job. With spare, delicate realism, Brazilian director Bruno Barreto (*Down Fall* and *Mr. Two Mothers*) crafts a riveting narrative out of the most innocuous

details. And he wins tremendous sympathy for the kidnappers—especially Fernando (Pedro Cardoso) and Maria (Fernanda Torres), who feel shy and flustered in love with the authorities close by. With discerning focus, *Four Days in September* manages to glorify and define revolutionary passion in the same unapologetic breath.

BRAND D. JOHNSON

## E.T. meets the Giant Squid

**SPHERE**  
Directed by Barry Levinson

These days Hollywood seems to have water on the brain. With Titanic setting the high standard, actors are having to swim for their supper in one action movie after another—*Braveheart*, *Never Die Alone*, *Resurrection*, *Heat*, *Men*. And now *Sphere*, a science-fiction adventure about a sunken spaceship. Neither fan nor foe, it is an unevenly hybrid, one that could be dubbed 2001, *Legends Under the Sea*, *A Space Odyssey*.

Based on the novel by Jonathan Lethem, *Sphere* is about a team of experts dispatched to explore a sunken spaceship that has been lying on the floor of the Pacific Ocean for 300 years. Inside, it looks like a badly lit Manhattan disco club, an ad hoc mess of cubicles. And at its core is a mysterious minor ball, a golden sphere that puts a dangerous spin on the mind of anyone who penetrates it.

The duo team includes a nervous psychologist named Norman

(Giant Squid) who conducts a close encounter of the theriacal kind with the alien entity, a psi-gapping technician (Sharon Stone) who has a murky past as Norman's patient and madonna, and a mathematician (Steven L. Jackson) who gets mesmerized by Jules Verne's 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea after taking a plunge into the sphere.

The story, which features killer jellyfish, snapping sea snakes and a giant squid, is patently ludicrous. But, making his first thriller, Barry Levinson (who directed *Hoffa* in 1991) likes and Wags the dog gives the cast ample room to poke fun at it in a glitzy comic style. Unfortunately, although *Sphere* occasionally threatens to turn into *Wag the Dog*, it is not a comedy. It is a cosmic thriller swash with philosophical bobbing and weaving, as well as the usual action clich  s, from the headache-inducing strobe lights to the bards with the digital countdown. *Sphere* tries to create a submarine sense of claustrophobia. But as the plot wears on, the only real fear is of being trapped in the most profound depths of Michael Crichton's mind, not realizing that you've never really left the surface. There is nothing to *Sphere* but *Sphere* itself.

B.D.J.



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# Allan Fotheringham



## Scrutinizing the lamentations of Jean Chrétien

**T**here are a lot of funny things going on in the world. People live in little tight compartments of their own. They actually convince themselves, being sincere, that what they think being sincere is a relief to reality.

The Prime Minister of Canada, speaking defensively about the wage-gone rise in MP's salaries, said to some defiance that "I make less than the lowest-paid player in the National Hockey League."

This is an interesting comment. It bears some examination. It reveals, on one level, the mind-set of a career politician. It smells, to no one's surprise, the real intention that by someone's words into the brain of anyone who has spent too much time in Ottawa, a town that is not actually real, because it is not a real place.

The lowest-paid regular player in the NHL is named Chris Murray, whoever he is. He plays for the Ottawa Senators. He makes \$365,000 a season. He does not have a chauffeur. Someone that picks him up at the door every morning.

The Prime Minister of Canada lives, actually, at a little shack called 24 Sussex Drive with a lovely view over the Ottawa River with the woodwork. Chris Murray, we assume, lives in an apartment on the way to the airport, which is largely how he makes his living.

The Prime Minister of Canada, unlike Chris Murray, has a staff of some 80 bodies in the Prime Minister's Office to support, tip, lift, walk, stand, wait, explain himself when his difficulties with either of the two official languages get him. The total annual budget for his many minions in the PMO and the Privy Council Office reaches \$16 million. Chris Murray—live it in your dreams.

When the Prime Minister wishes to travel, an entourage of black cars, RCMP lights whirling, rushes him to the Ottawa airport where a prime minister jet whisks him off to yet another fake Team Canada expedition to the Pacific Rim, to South America, to somewhere that he can't even remember, to sign fake business contracts that were arranged months before but make good TV clips.

Each NHL team has handicapped games each season—with play-off consequences that last until early summer. Each night, for most of



the year, Chris Murray has to schlep to the airport to stand in line with his luggage, containing his over-stuffed suitcase, and fly to Florida and then Dallas and then lovely Anaheim and, if he's lucky, to Edmonton before dropping in on Vancouver on the way to Montreal. Or maybe Detroit. Or Boston. Or wherever. By the end of the road trip, he doesn't know where he's going.

The history of hockey players in their industrial Age venue is to be yanked out of high school and shipped to some junior hockey factory in another town far away where they spend their life on buses. The average tenure of a low-life back like Chris Murray in the NHL is six years. For every superstar, there are a dozen guys pumping gas outside Becher's.

The genius Bobby Orr, one of the three best players ever to play the game and who will be 50 in March, lasted only 12 years in the NHL, after too many knee operations (and finding out that his agent and close friend Alan Eagleson had stolen his money).

The Prime Minister of Canada, first entering the Commons in 1960, has spent almost all his adult life on the public payroll—interrupted only by becoming a millionaire during a short foray into the oil business on Bay Street with unimpressive performances for Gordon Capital Co. providing the right P&L balance for his shareholders.

There has been only one hockey player to compare with the Prime Minister of Canada for longevity: the unbelievable Gordie Howe, who went from teenager into his 50s on the ice, elbows high. Only one difference: he was never on the public payroll. The Prime Minister of Canada has no streaks, every day, in whatever locale, an official photographer who records each move—even when snuggling a small, confused protester in Hall. We do not think Chris Murray has such an adoring follower.

The Prime Minister of Canada has a press secretary, Peter Dinko, who has some 10 minions and huffe-puffers on his staff, the better to gain and twist the words of the leader so to what the only man in Canada who can't speak either of the two official languages actually speak. Chris Murray does not have that advantage.

Chris Murray, in his dreams, does not have the privilege of an entire RCMP-guarded route—Burrington Lake across the river in Quebec where not a single solitary Canadian is allowed to enter its pristine waters because the Prime Minister of Canada is allowed to go out on his canoe in solitude. And, apparently, since an Sunday afternoon why he is paid less than the worst backer in the National Hockey League.

Chris Murray, unhappy him, does not have the chauffeur who that picks him up on Parliament Hill after a cabinet meeting to deliver him home to Sussex Drive for lunch before delivering him back for Question Period. He does not have a chief of staff or an appointments secretary or special assistants piled on special assistants who report to policy advisors who have special assistants.

We thank the Prime Minister of Canada about not writing so much.



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